三国志 40

漢中王劉備

横山光輝

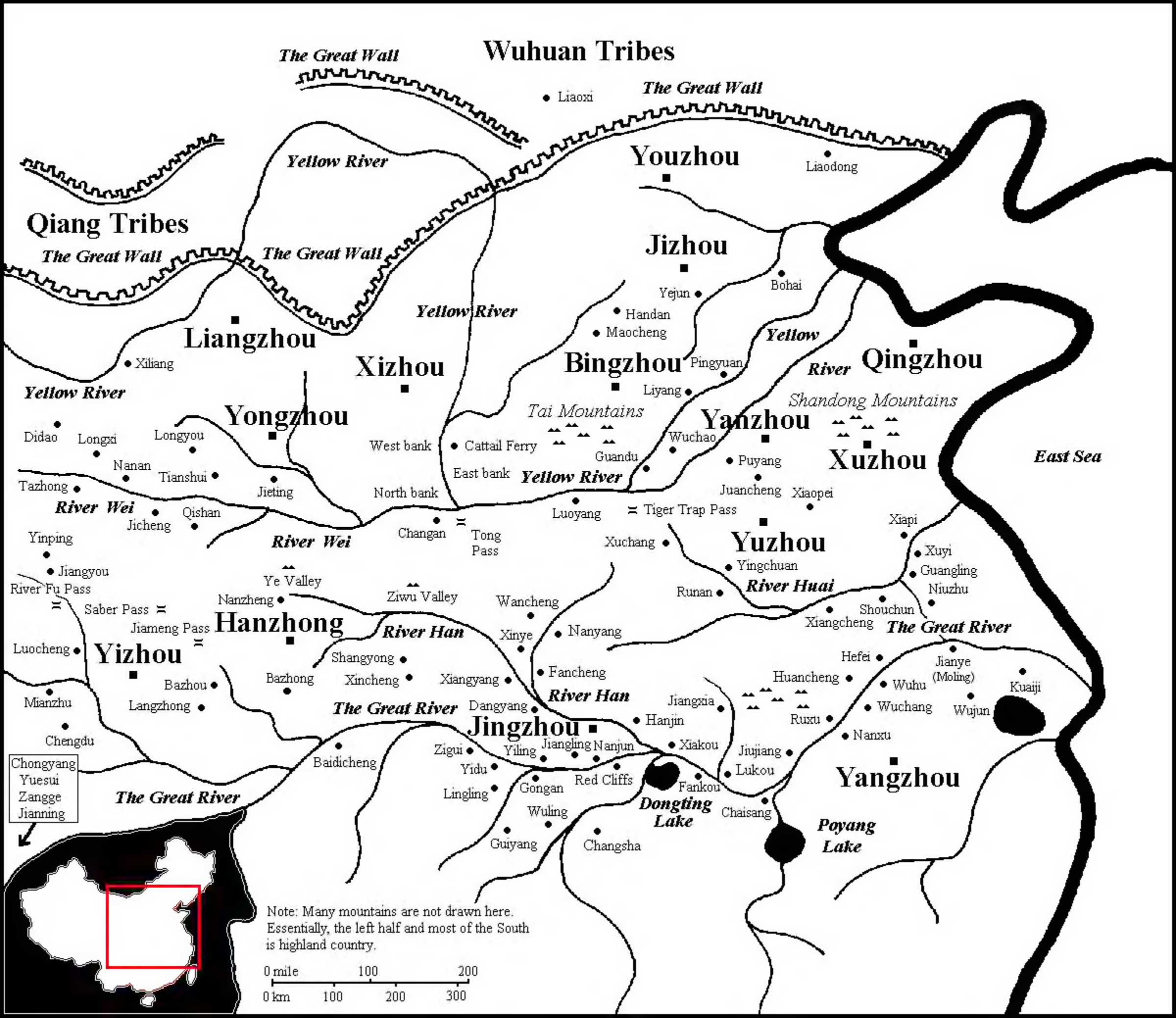
希望コミックス 121

SANGOKUSHI

40

KING OF HANZHONG, LIU BEI

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CAO REN:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LING TONG:
FORMIDABLE GENERAL OF WU. HE BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST GAN NING FOR KILLING HIS FATHER BACK WHEN GAN NING WAS NOT A WU OFFICER (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU MENG:
FIERCE GENERAL OF WU, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER LU SU'S FORCES SINCE HIS PASSING.

LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTHLANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

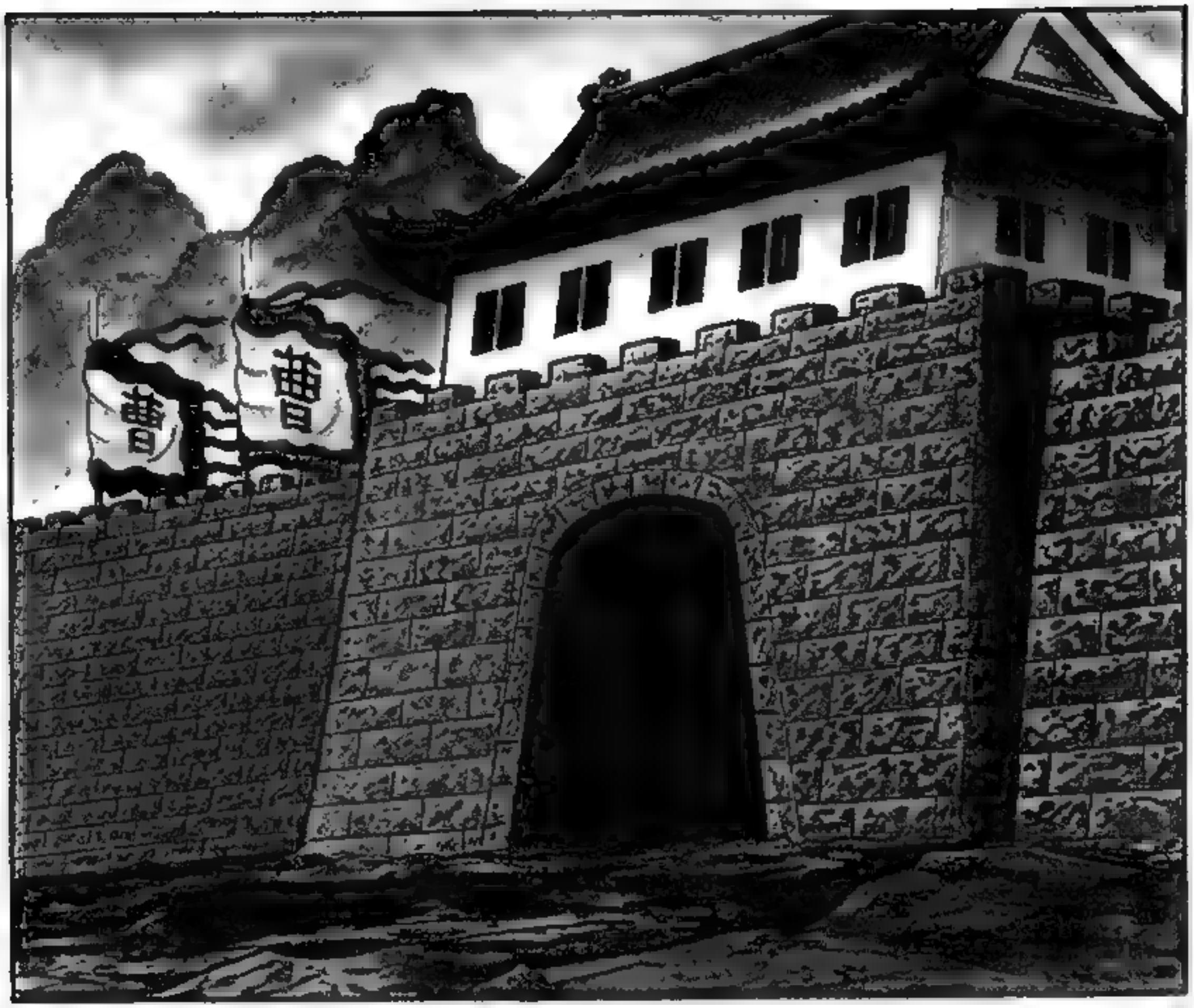
三国志

VOLUME 40
KING OF HANZHONG, LIU BEI

PANG DE OF NAN'AN 7
COFFIN 37
SMOKE BEACONS 69
NON-AGGRESSION PACT 87
KING OF HANZHONG 108
DESPERATE RETREAT 127
CHICKEN RIBS 144
CAO ZHANG 164
TABLE OF CONTENTS

（月刊『コミックトム』掲載）

CAO ZHANG



YANGPING PASS WILL NOT HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FOOD, SIR.

TO THINK EVEN XU CHU WOULD FAIL...

WHAT!?

SHU FORCES ARE APPROACH-ING YANGPING PASS, SIR!

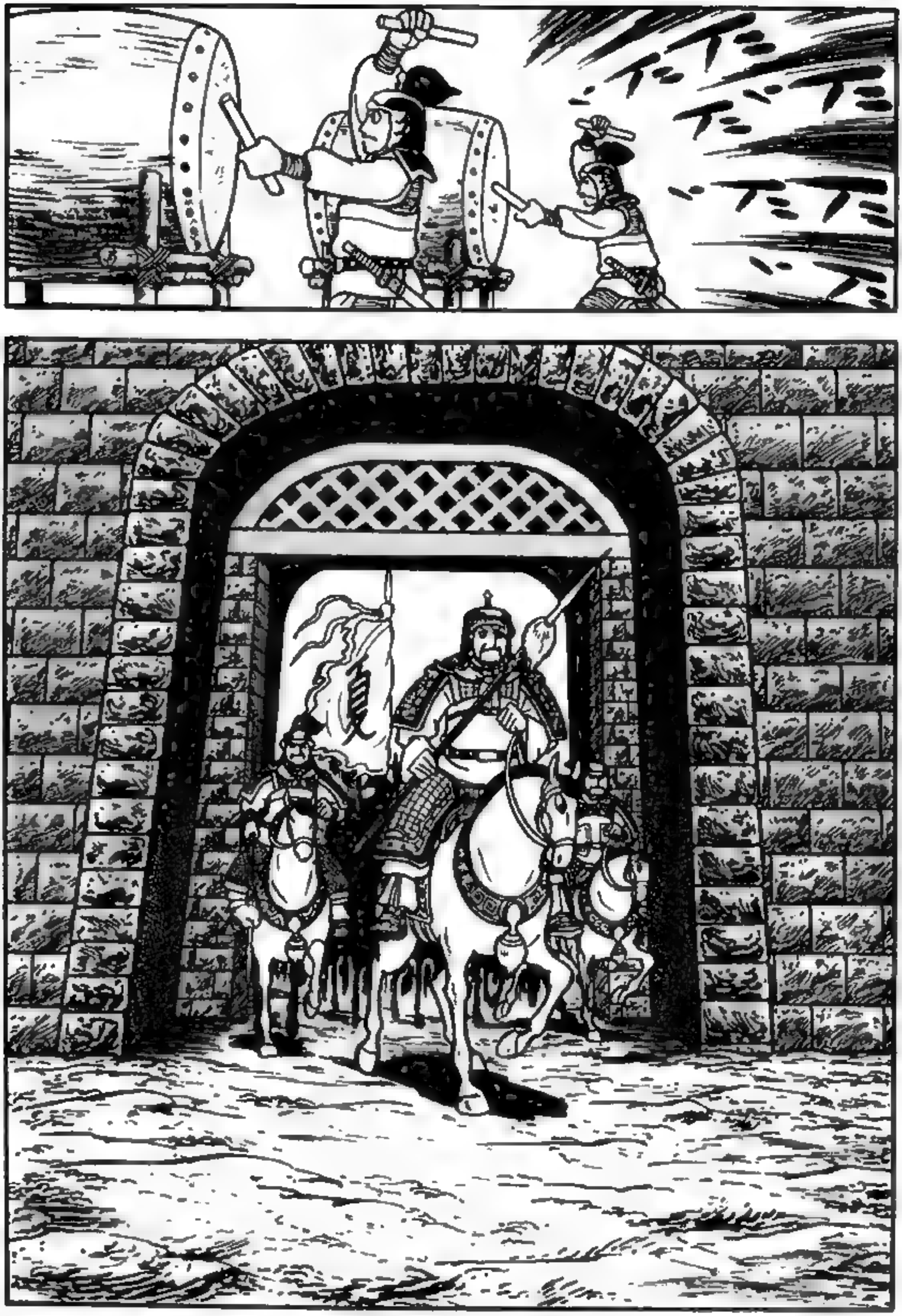
AHH!

GIVE THE BATTLE SIGNAL. FORCING A DECISIVE BATTLE AGAINST LIU BEI OUT ON THE FIELD IS OUR ONLY SOLUTION.

NGHH... WE'LL ONLY STARVE TO OUR DEATHS IF WE KEEP SITTING INSIDE HERE.

YES, SIR.

BEAT THE DRUMS TO MARCH OUT! DO YOU ALLL UNDERSTAND ME!?



NO CASTLE OR FORT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ITS SUPPLIES GETTING CUT OFF.

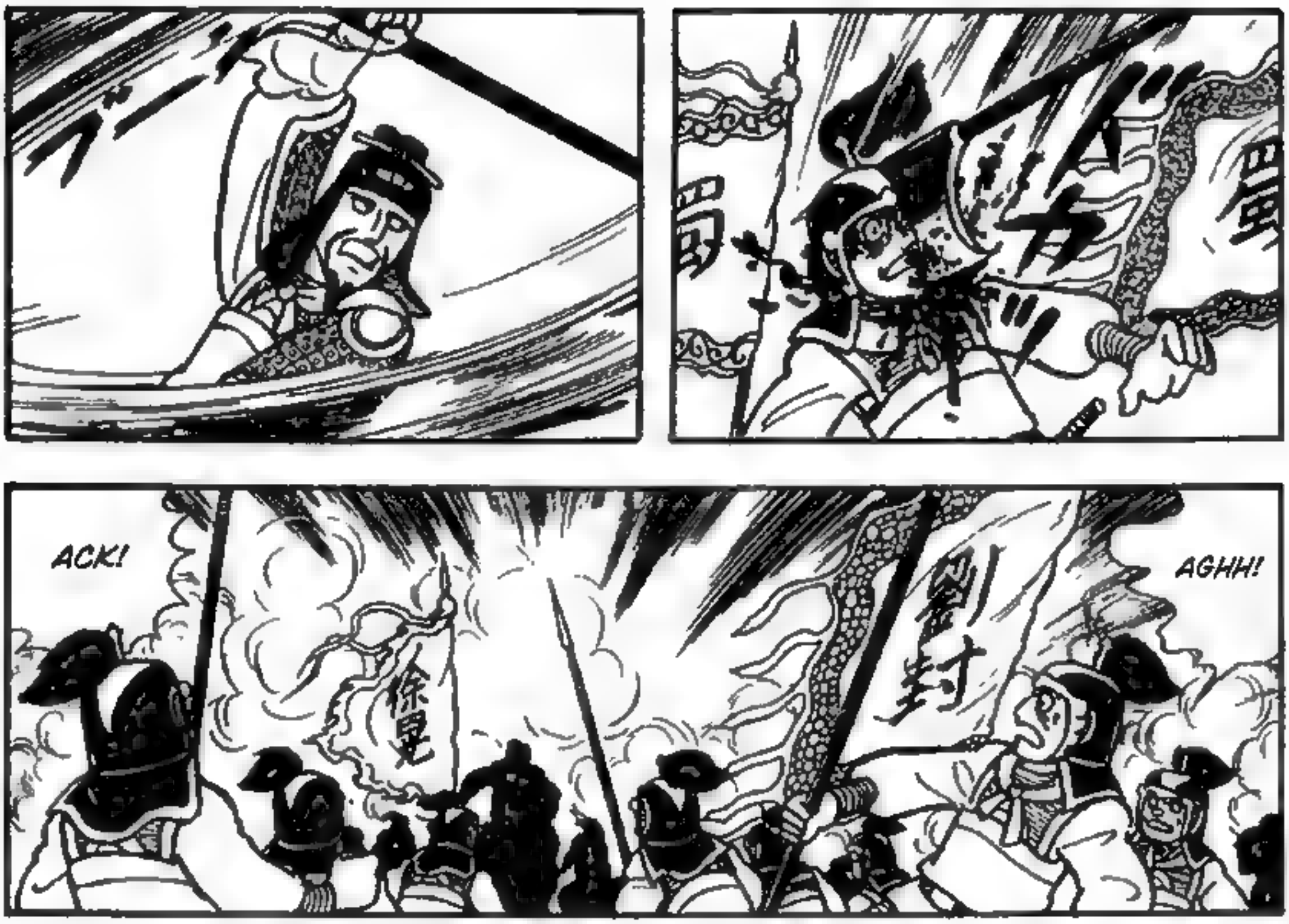
THE ENEMIES ARE COMING OUT, LIU FENG.

ドドド

LET'S MEET THEM IN BATTLE!

YES, SIR.

XU HUANG! LEAD THE ATTACK!


ACK!
AGHH!
FLEEING ALREADY, COWARDS!?

PRESS ON THE ATTACK!

OHH! XU HUANG HAS ROUTED THE ENEMY VANGUARD!

劉

WHOEVER TAKES LIU BEI'S HEAD, I WILL MAKE HIM THE GOVERNOR OF NANCHUAN!

GOVERNOR OF NANCHUAN?

OH!

FIND LIU BEI!

HM?

EXCELLENT.

OUR FORCES HAVE PENE-TRATED ALL THE WAY INTO THEIR CENTER, SIR.

曹

YOUR HIGHNESS! THERE'S SMOKE RISING UP FROM YANGPING PASS!

AHHH!

HM?

YES, WHAT'S GOING ON!?

REPORTING, SIR!

カ〝カ〝

WHAT!?

THE EAST AND SOUTH GATES OF YANGPING PASS HAVE BEEN SET ON FIRE WHILE SHU FORCES HAVE ENTERED THROUGH THE NORTH GATE!

YES...

ARE YOU SAYING THE ENEMIES ARE TO OUR FRONT *AND* REAR...?

MNN...

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE MUST NOT DELAY IN FINDING A PATH TO RETREAT OR EVERY SECOND WILL BE A SECOND CLOSER TO OUR ANNHILATION!

魏山

曹

WITHDRAW TO XIE VALLEY!

TE TE TE TE TE

DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES ARE CLOSING IN ON OUR REAR!

AH-

!

AHH!

ATTACK!

LEAVING SO SOON? NOT ON MY WATCH.

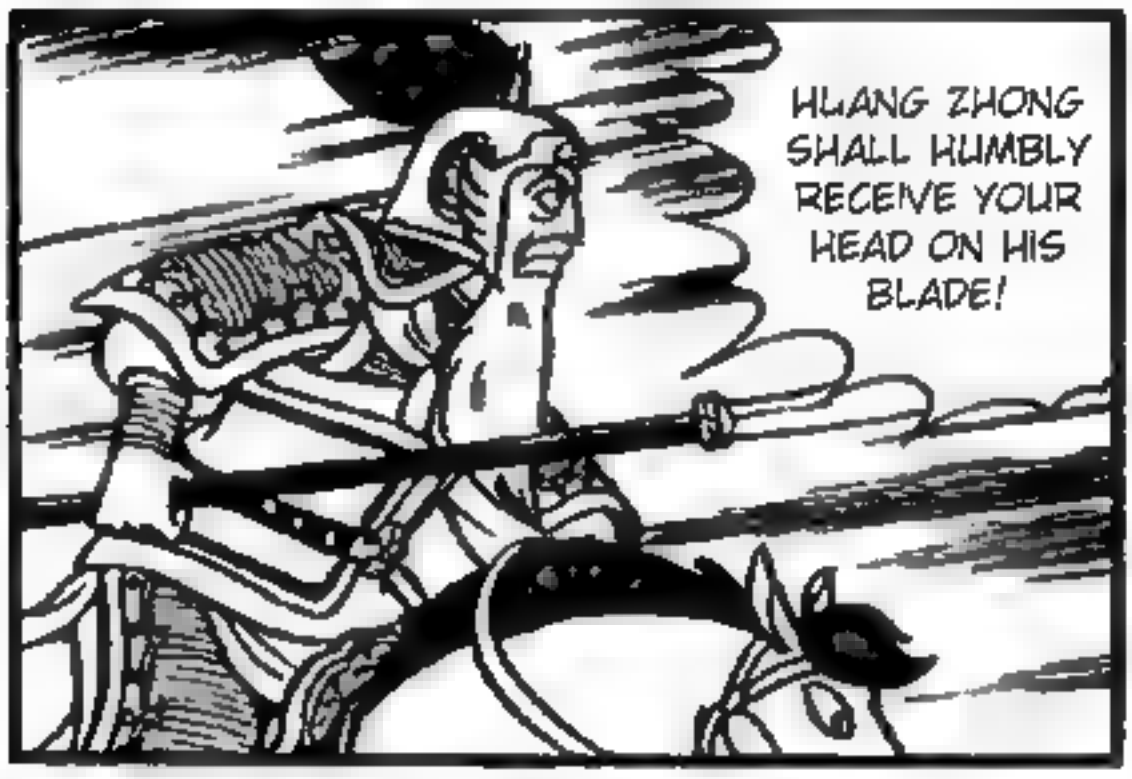
ZHANG FEI!?

AGHH!

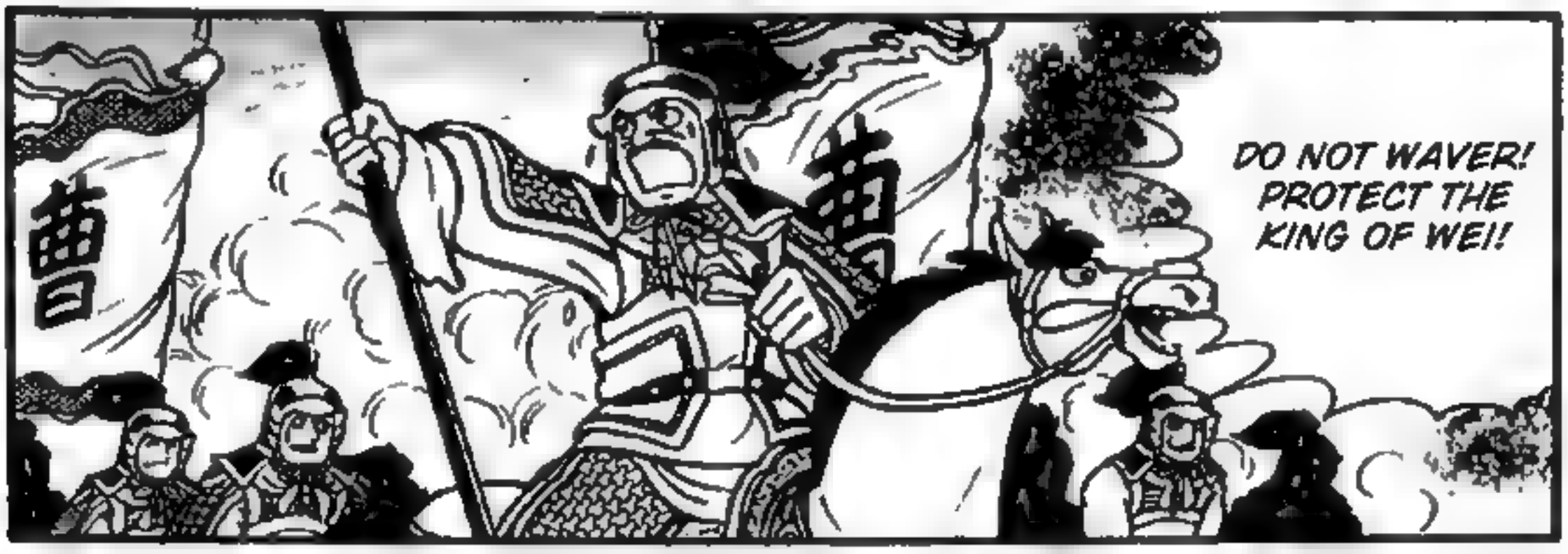
YES...
THIS WAY, YOUR HIGHNESS!

DAMN IT! STOP GETTING IN MY WAY!

AHH!


HUANG ZHONG SHALL HUMBLY RECEIVE YOUR HEAD ON HIS BLADE!

IS THAT THE REBEL CAO CAO BEFORE ME?


曹
曹
DO NOT WAVER! PROTECT THE KING OF WEI!

曹

CLEAR THE WAY!

KONGMING MUST HAVE HAD TROOPS PLACED ALL AROUND HERE IN ADVANCE...

GULP...

AGHH!

YOUR HIGHNESS WILL MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO GIVE UP ALL OUR LIVES!

THERE IS NOWHERE TO RUN NOW... HAS MY LIFE REACHED ITS END...?

WHAT!?

I DON'T THINK THOSE ARE SHU TROOPS, SIR!

HM?

曹彰

魏

曹彰

魏

曹彰

魏

FATHER!

THAT'S THE BANNER OF MY SECOND SON, CAO ZHANG!

?

BUT HE SHOULD BE PACIFYING THE WUHUAN REVOLT IN DAI COMMANDERY...

AFTER PUTTING DOWN THE WUHUAN REVOLT, I HEAR YOU WERE FACING DIFFICULTY HERE, SO I CAME HERE WITH 50,000 TROOPS.

ZHANG, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IF YOU HADN'T COME JUST NOW.

YOU PUT DOWN THE REVOLT ALREADY?

LET US REGROUP HERE AND PAY BACK OUR ENEMIES IN DOUBLE!

蜀
蜀
劉
劉
THANKS TO HIS ARRIVAL, THE ENEMIES HAVE RECOVERED FROM THEIR SHOCK AND REORGANIZED THEMSELVES.
WHAT!? CAO ZHANG HAS SHOWN UP WITH 50,000 TROOPS!?
THEN CAO ZHANG WILL SURELY LEAD THEIR VANGUARD IN OUR NEXT BATTLE.
YES, CAO CAO ADORES HIM FOR THAT REASON.
I HEAR CAO ZHANG HAS A REPUTATION FOR HIS MARTIAL PROWESS...

ALLOW ME, FATHER!

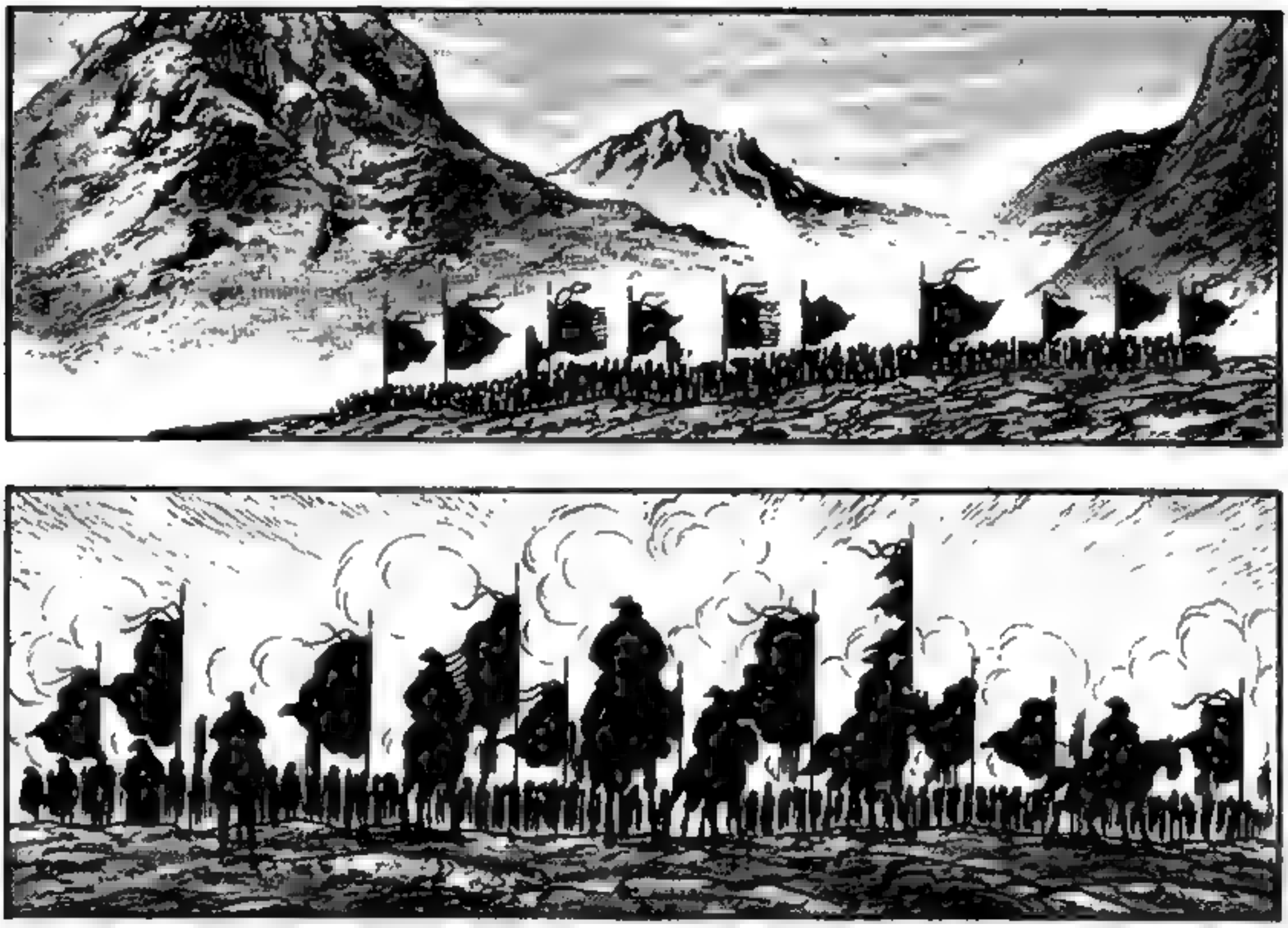
NO, ALLOW ME, MY LORD!

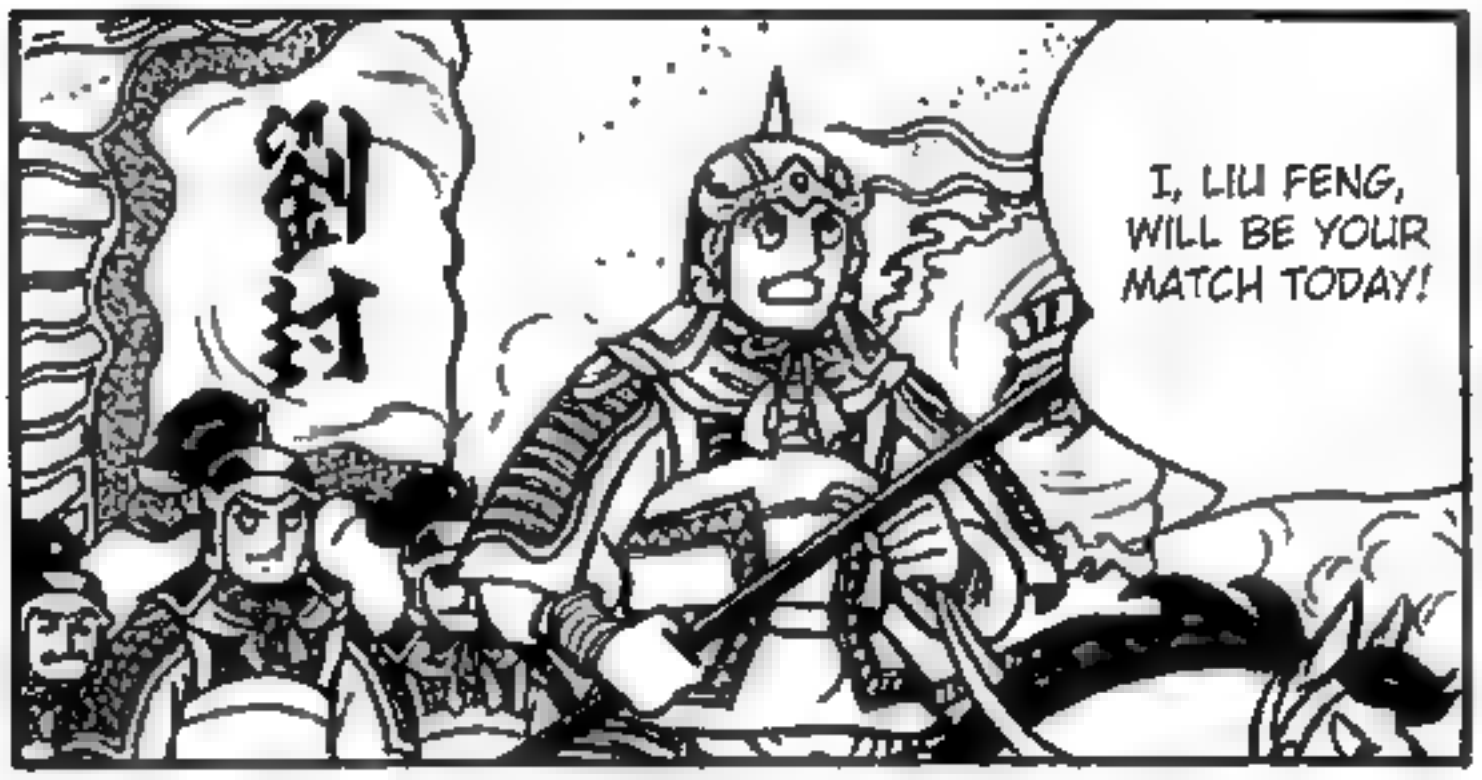
WHO HERE WOULD LIKE THE CHANCE TO TAKE CAO ZHANG'S HEAD AND SHATTER WEI'S MORALE ONCE MORE?

LIU FENG, MENG DA. I WILL GIVE EACH OF YOU 5000 TROOPS TO TAKE HIM ON.

YES, SIR.

THANK YOU.




劉封
I, LIU FENG, WILL BE YOUR MATCH TODAY!

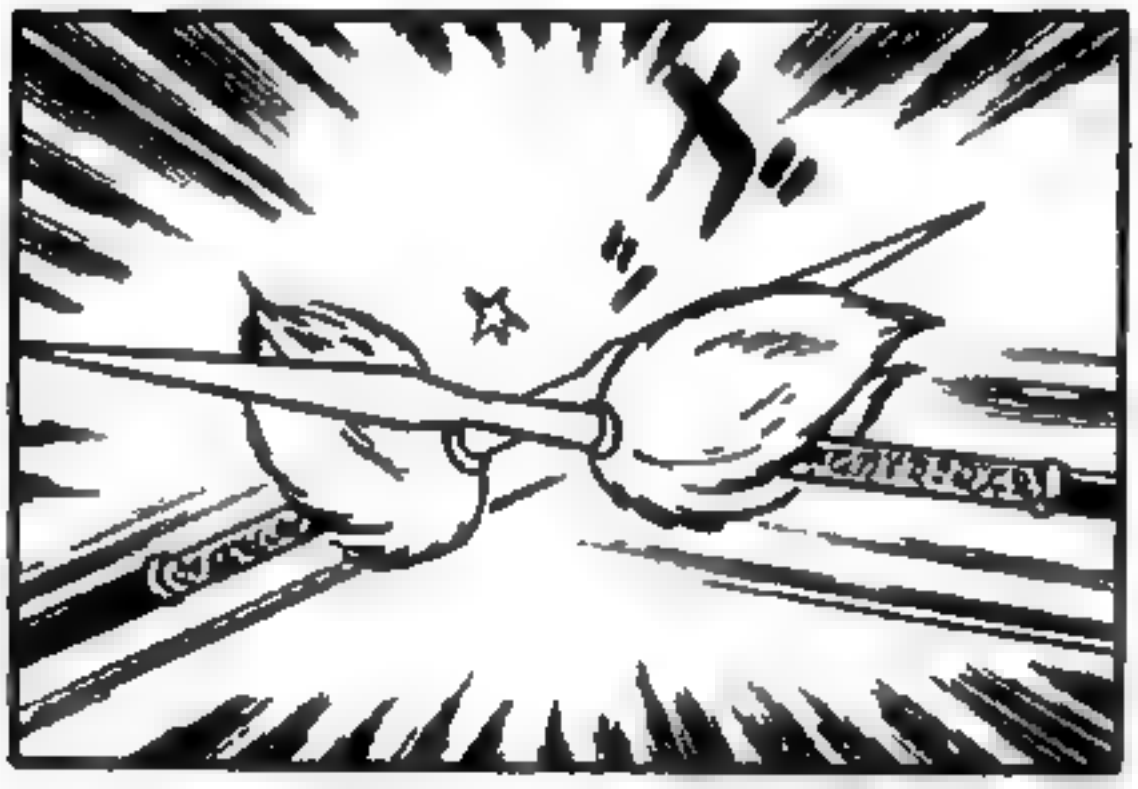
ARE YOU THERE, LIU BEI! I, CAO ZHANG, CHALLENGE YOU TO A FIGHT ON BEHALF OF MY FATHER!

WHAT!?

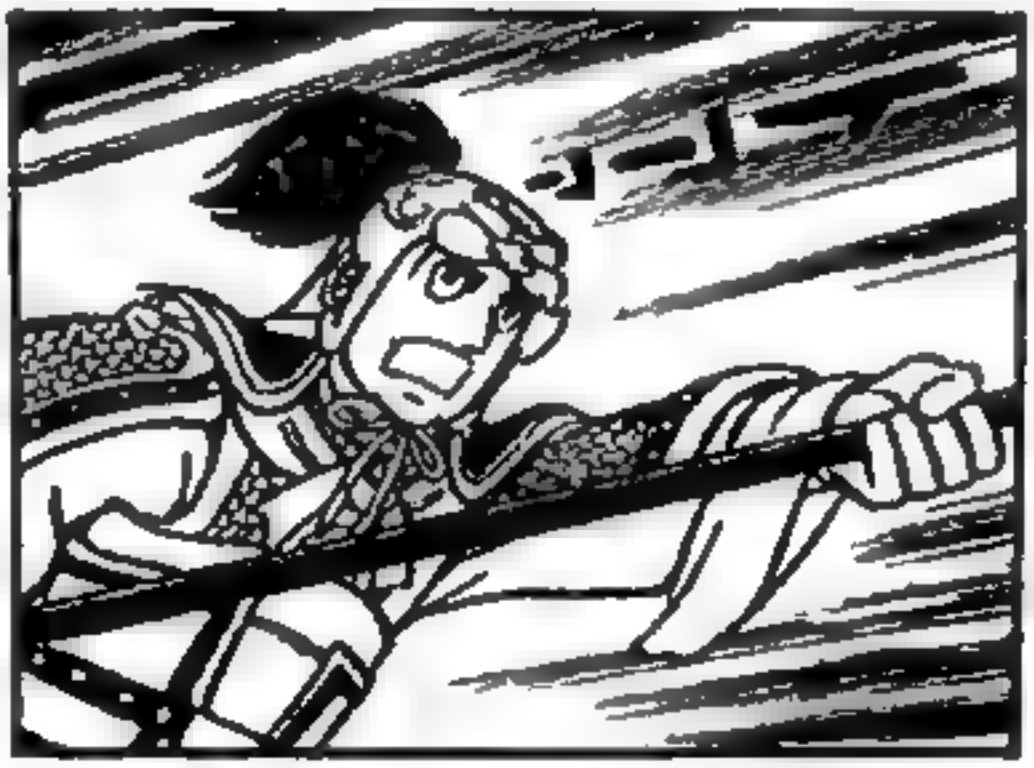
HA! A GREEN RUNT LIKE YOU SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS!

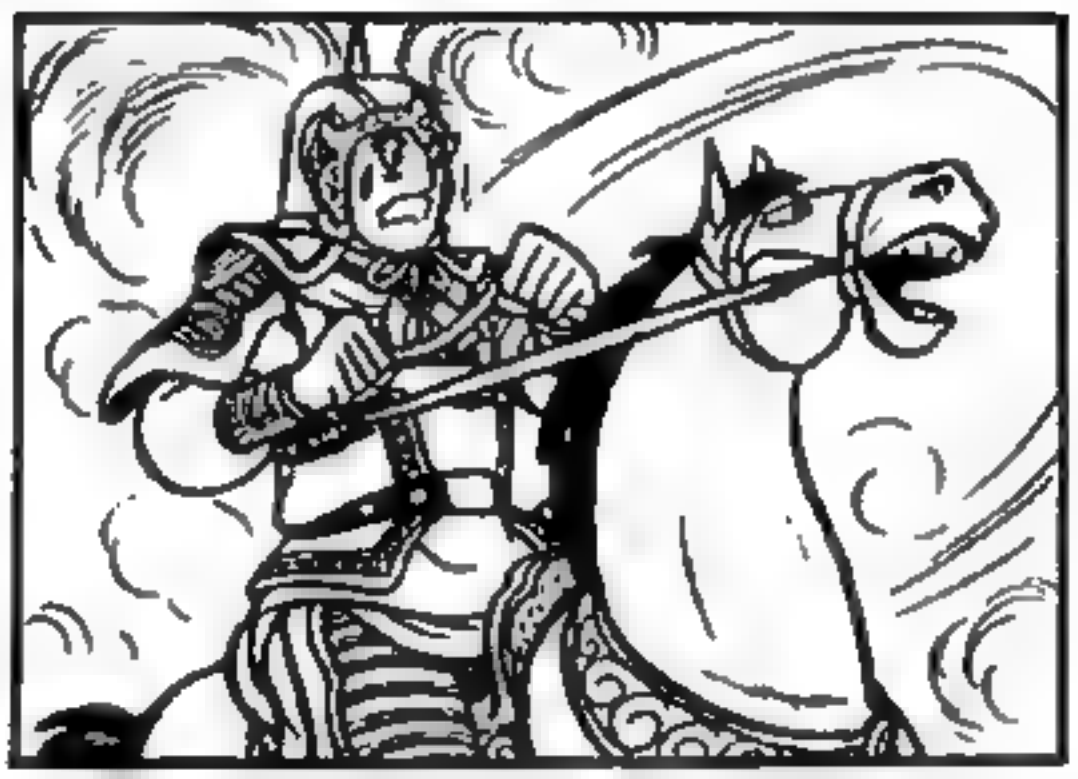
IS DEATH SO ENVIABLE THAT YOU MUST RUSH TO IT?

HAVE AT YOU!



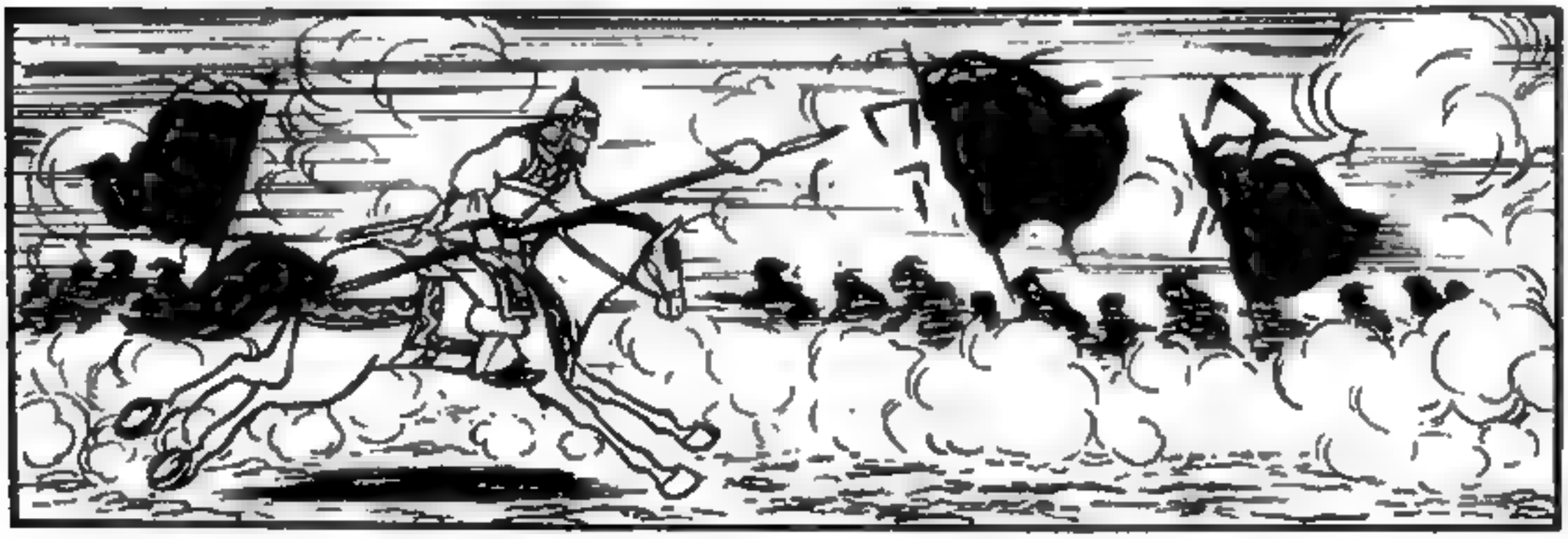
AGHH-



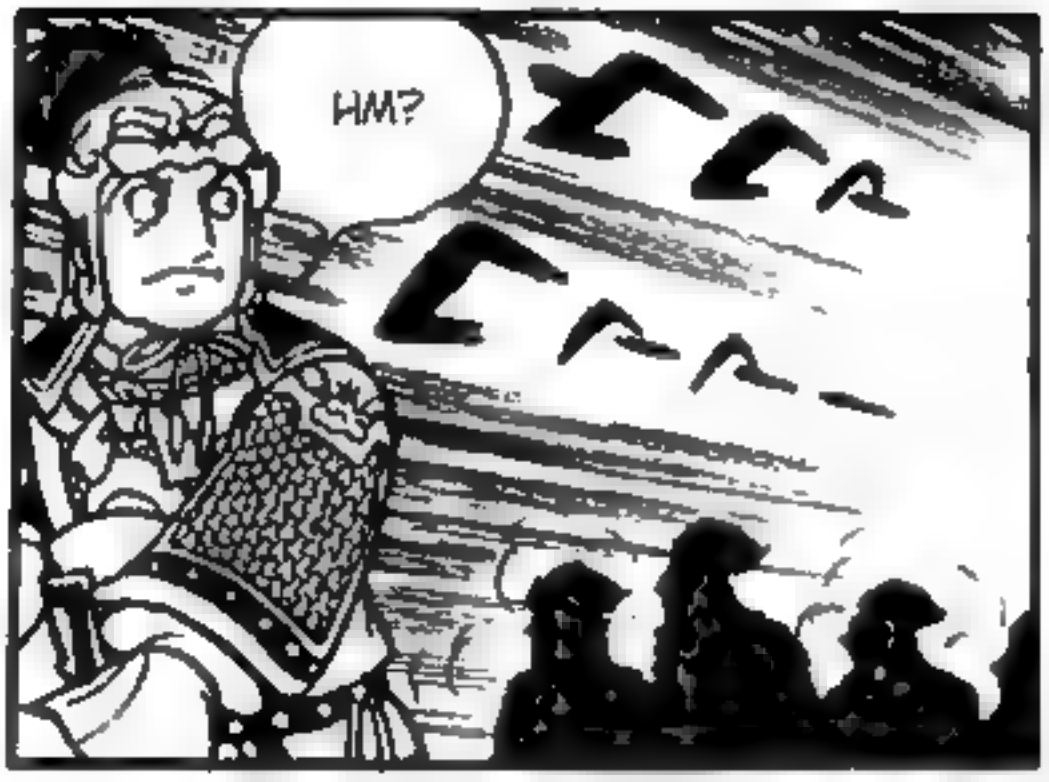


WITHDRAW FOR NOW WHILE I COVER YOUR RETREAT.

RUNNING AWAY, LIU FENG? YOU SMEAR YOUR FATHER'S HONOUR!



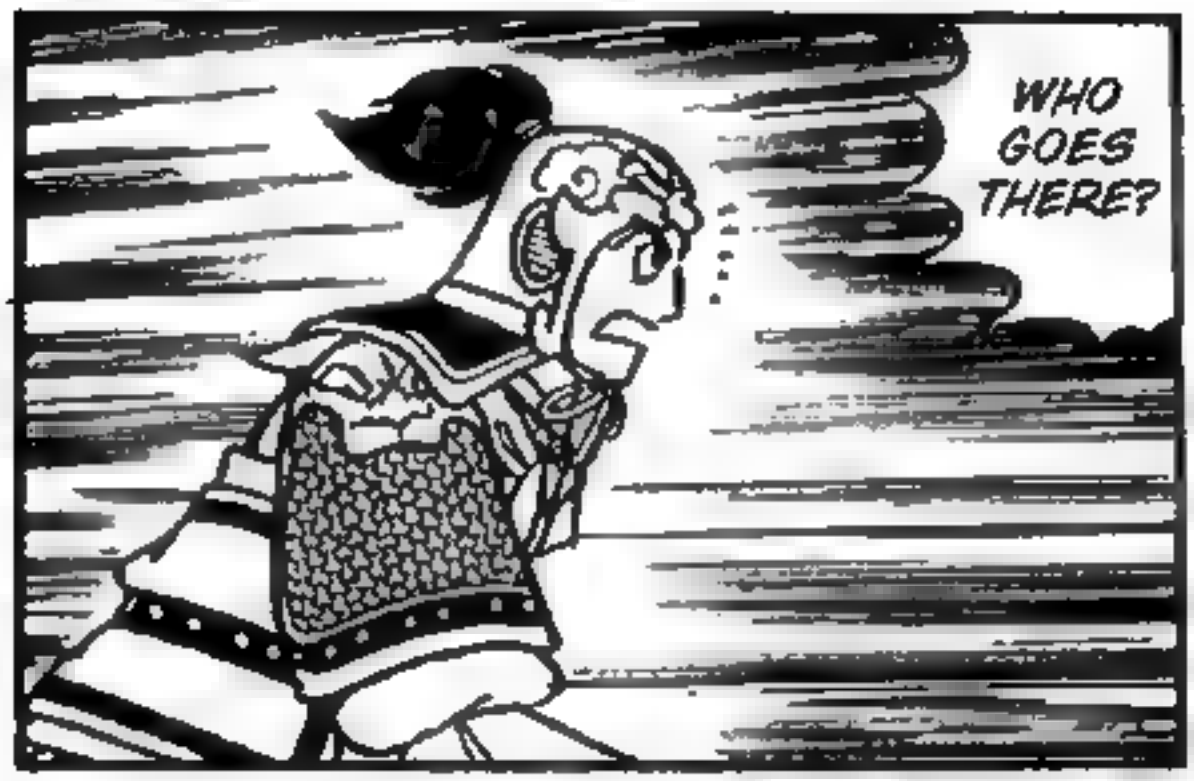
WHAT'S WRONG?

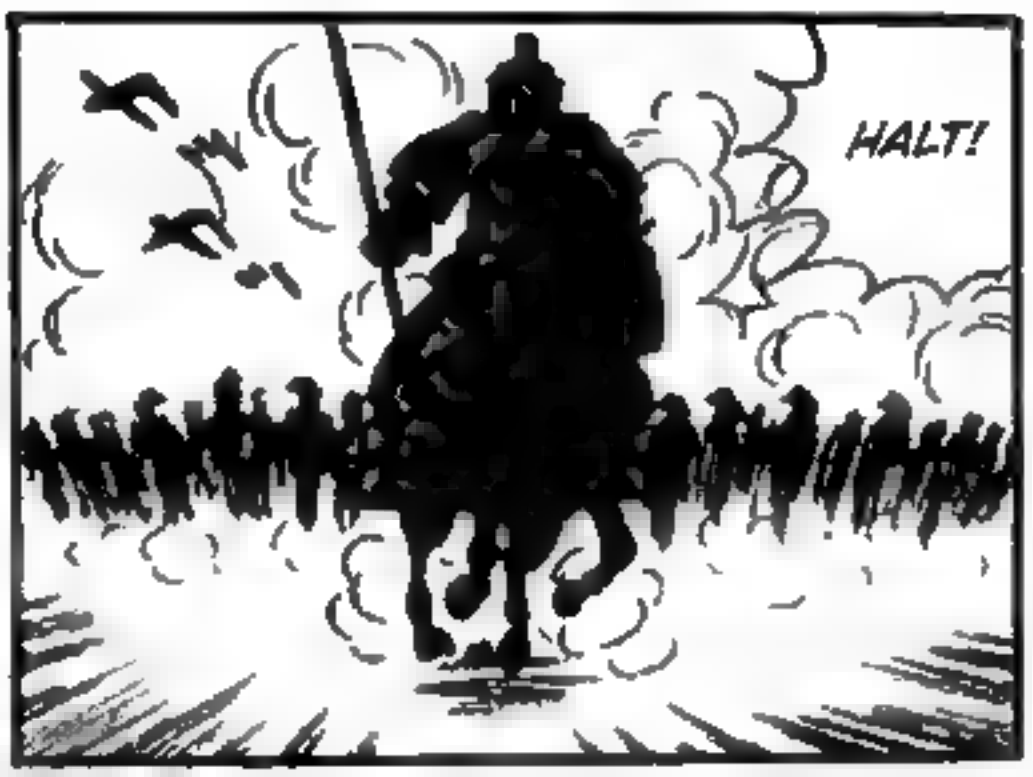

HM?

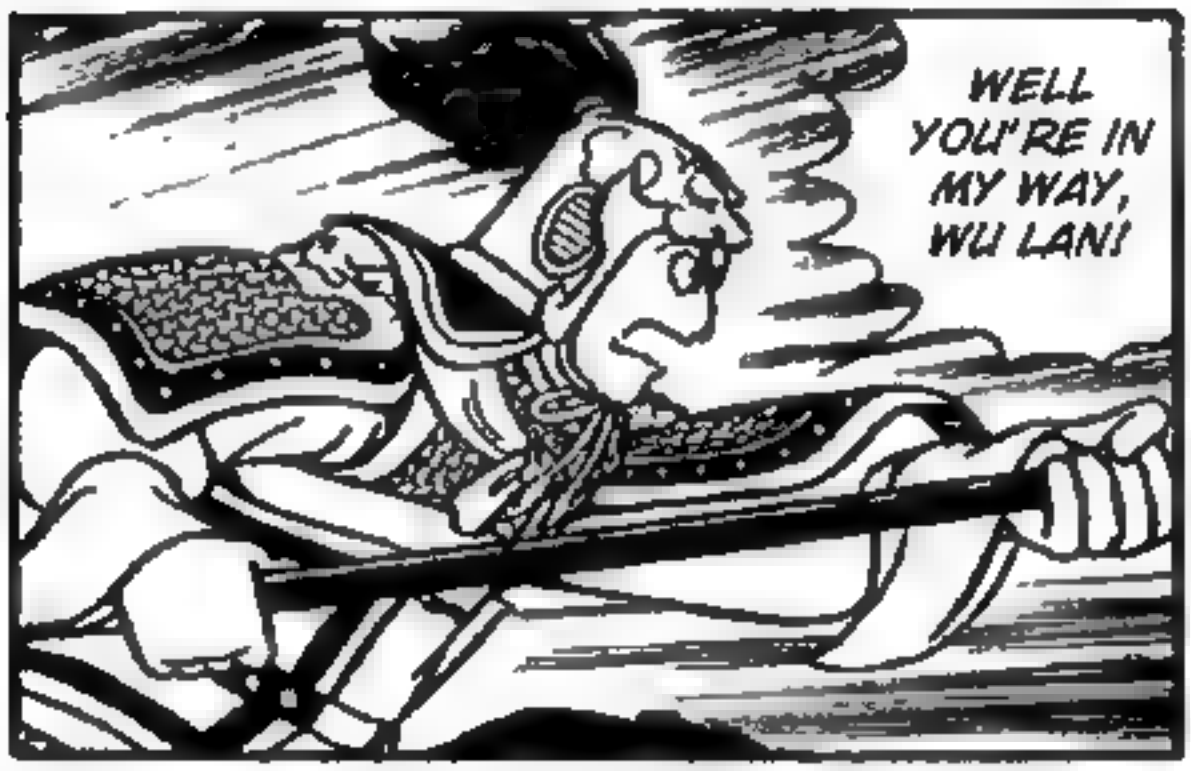
SO THEY'RE TRYING TO CUT ME OFF, ARE THEY?

LET US WITHDRAW FOR NOW!

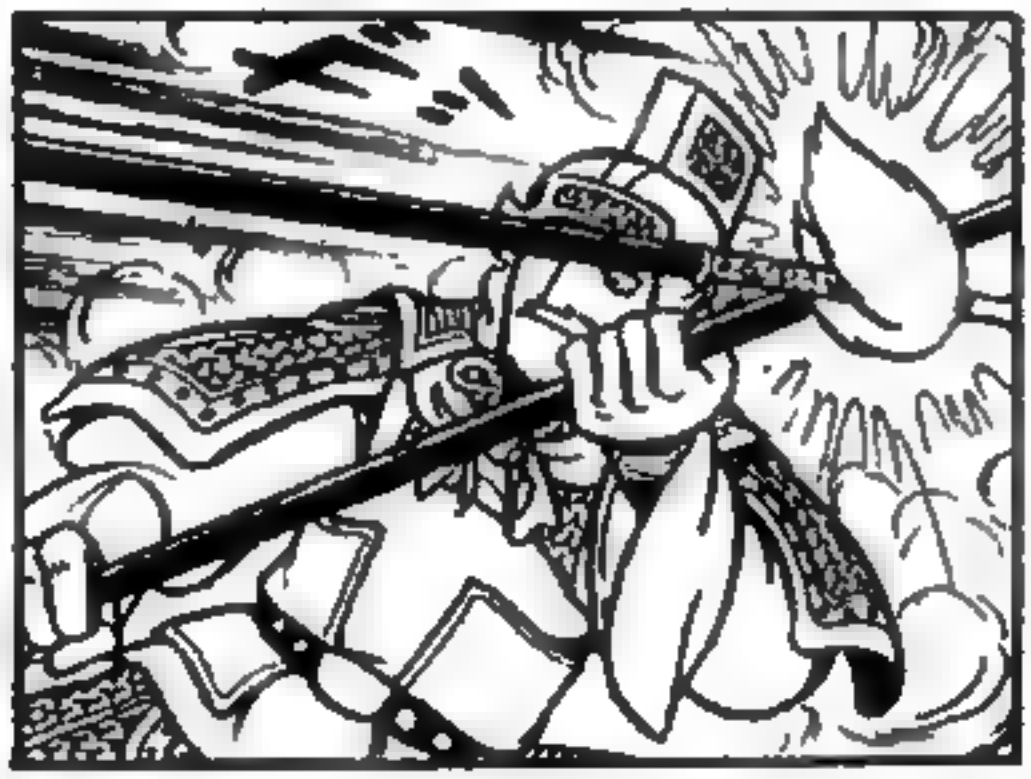
WHAT!?
ENEMY FORCES LED BY MA CHAO AND WU LAN HAVE SUDDENLY APPEARED TO OUR REAR, SIR!

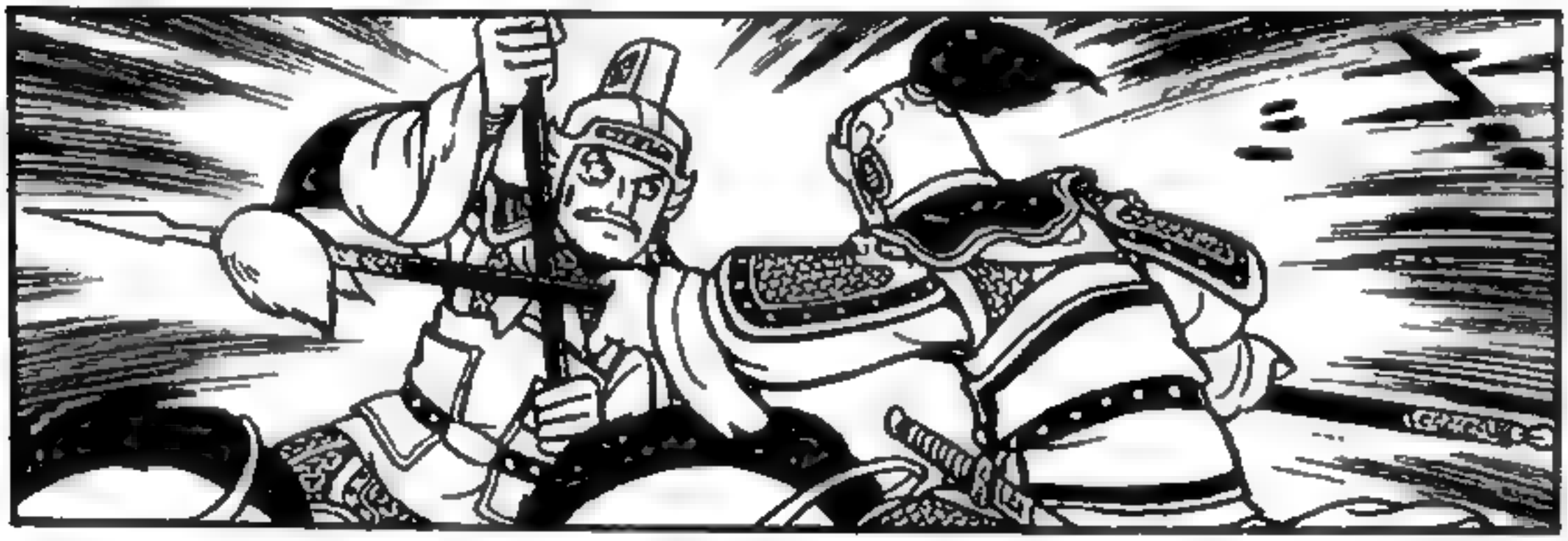

WHO GOES THERE?

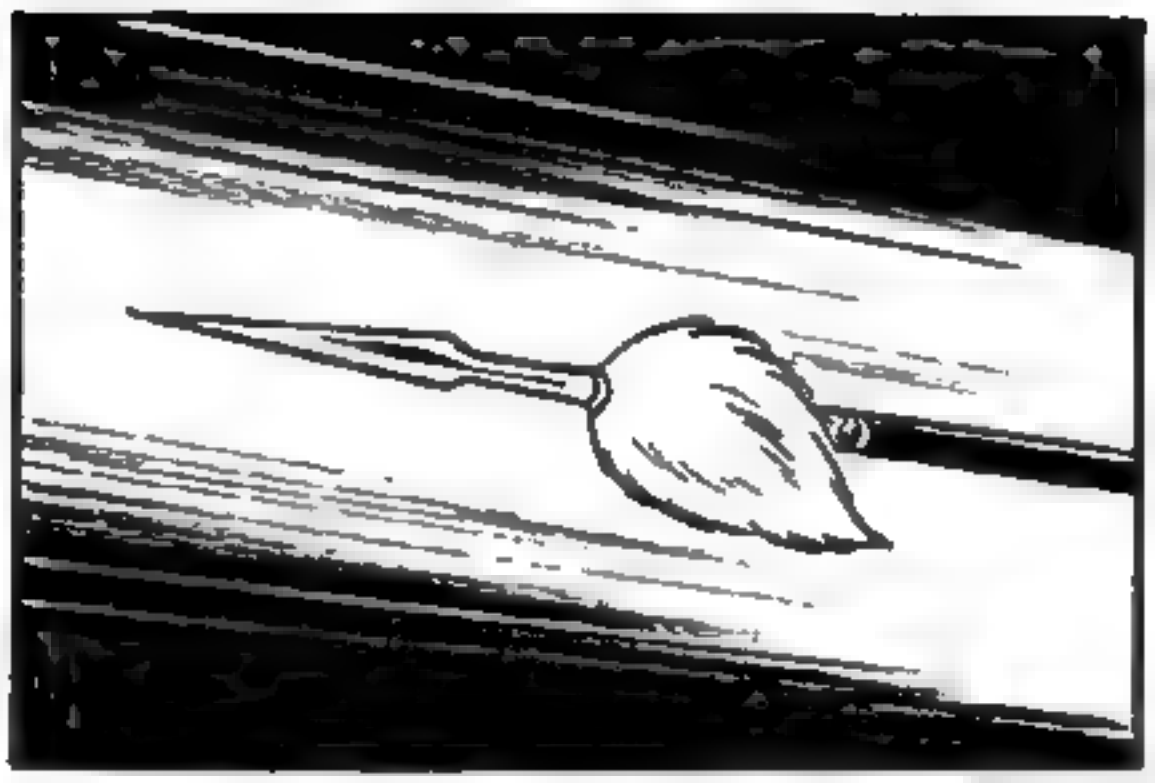

HALT!


WELL YOU'RE IN MY WAY, WU LAN!

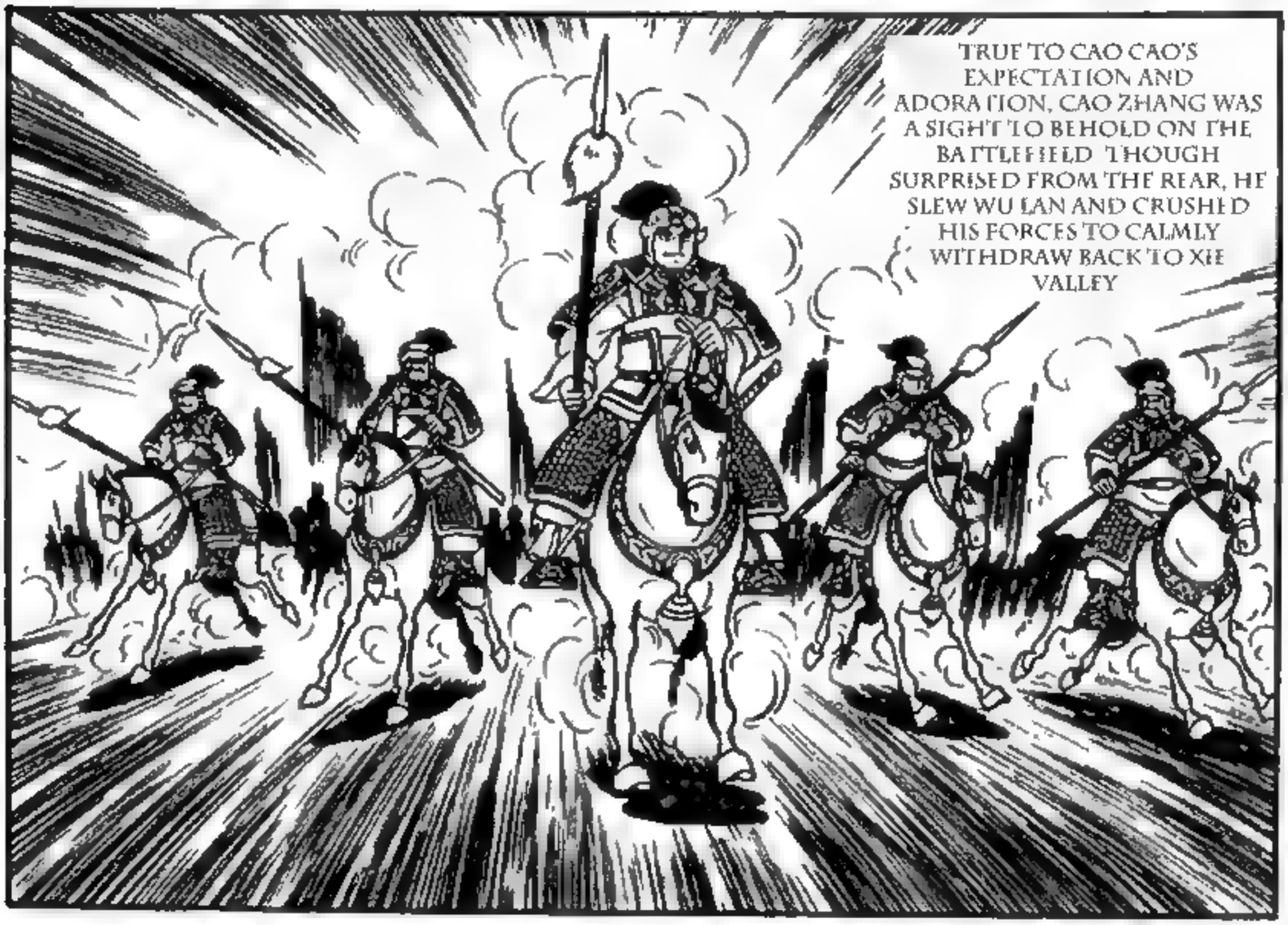
WU LAN, A GENERAL OF SHU!







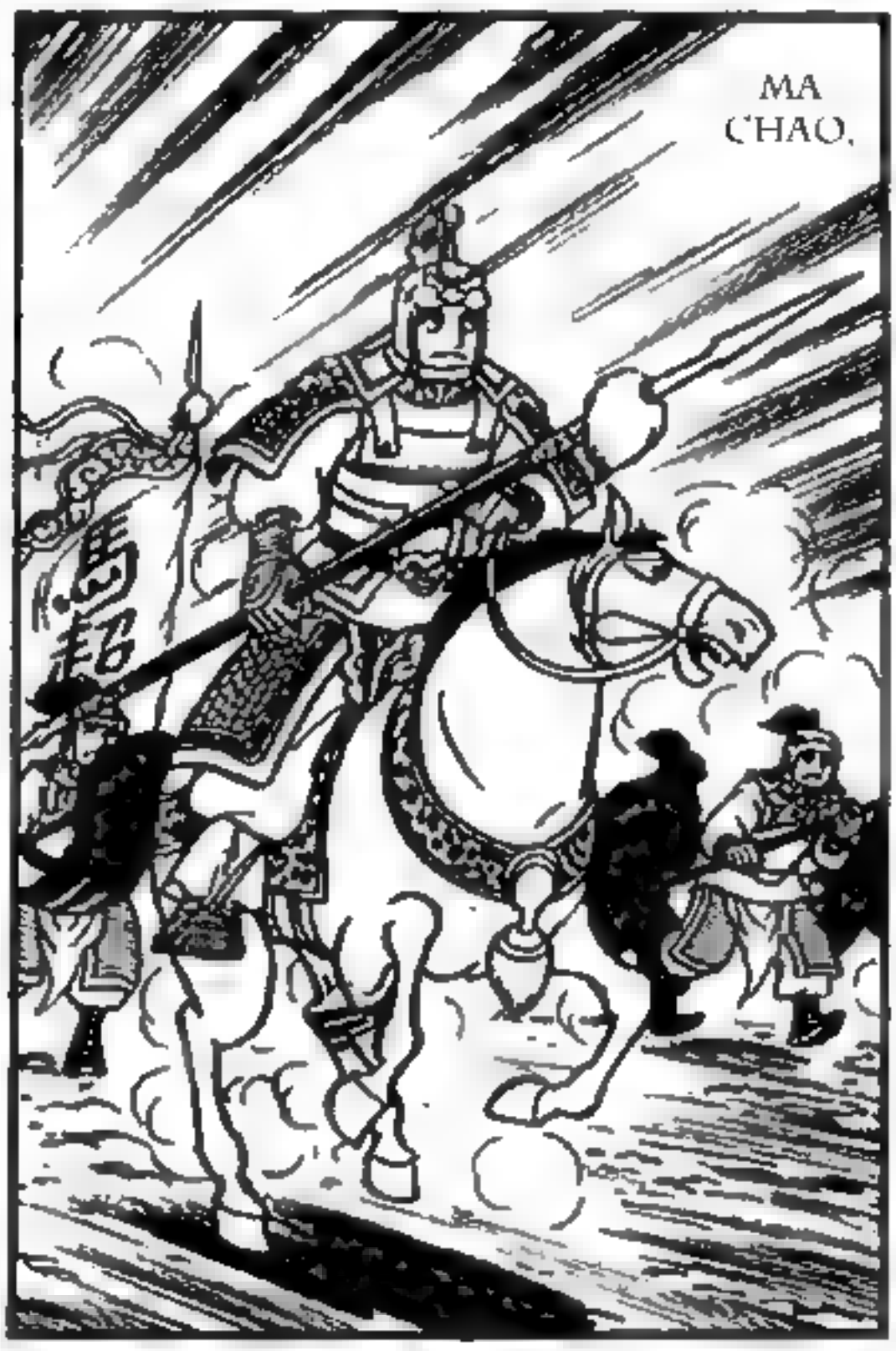
GENERAL!


TRUE TO CAO CAO'S EXPECTATION AND ADORATION, CAO ZHANG WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THOUGH SURPRISED FROM THE REAR, HE SLEW WU LAN AND CRUSHED HIS FORCES TO CALMLY WITHDRAW BACK TO XIE VALLEY

CHICKEN RIBS

WEI YAN.
魏延

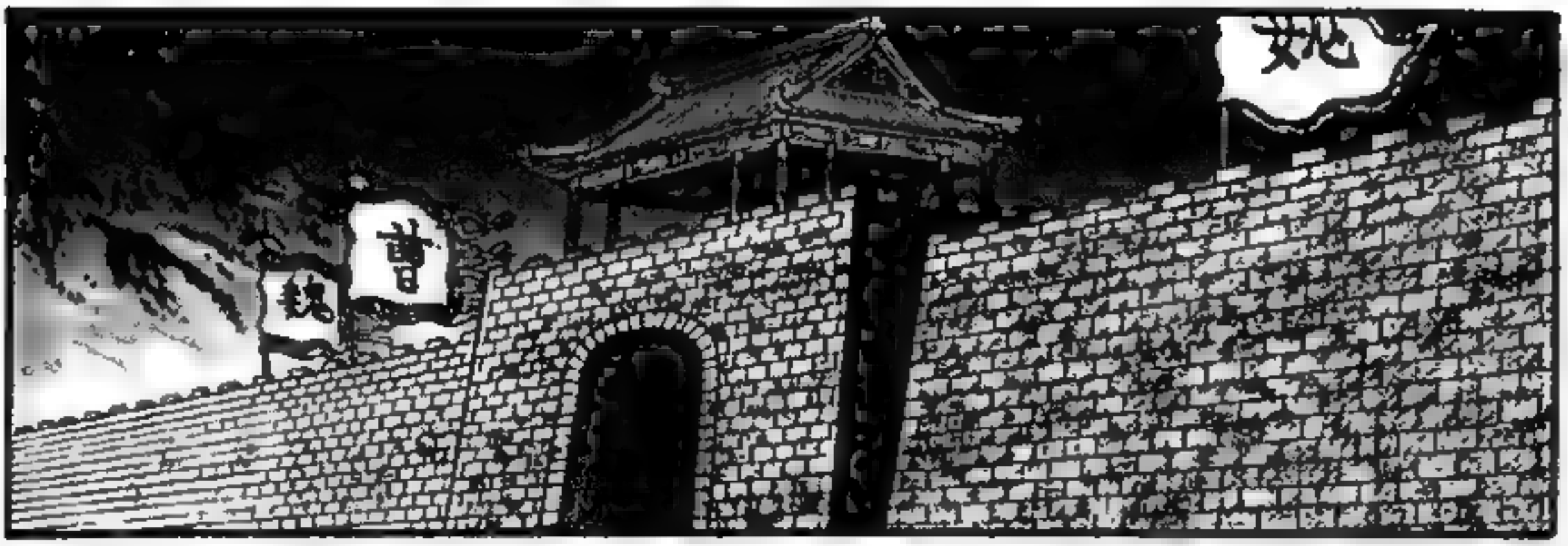
HUANG ZHONG.


MA CHAO.

趙雲
AND ZHAO ZILONG ALL SET THEIR SIGHTS UPON CAO ZHANG

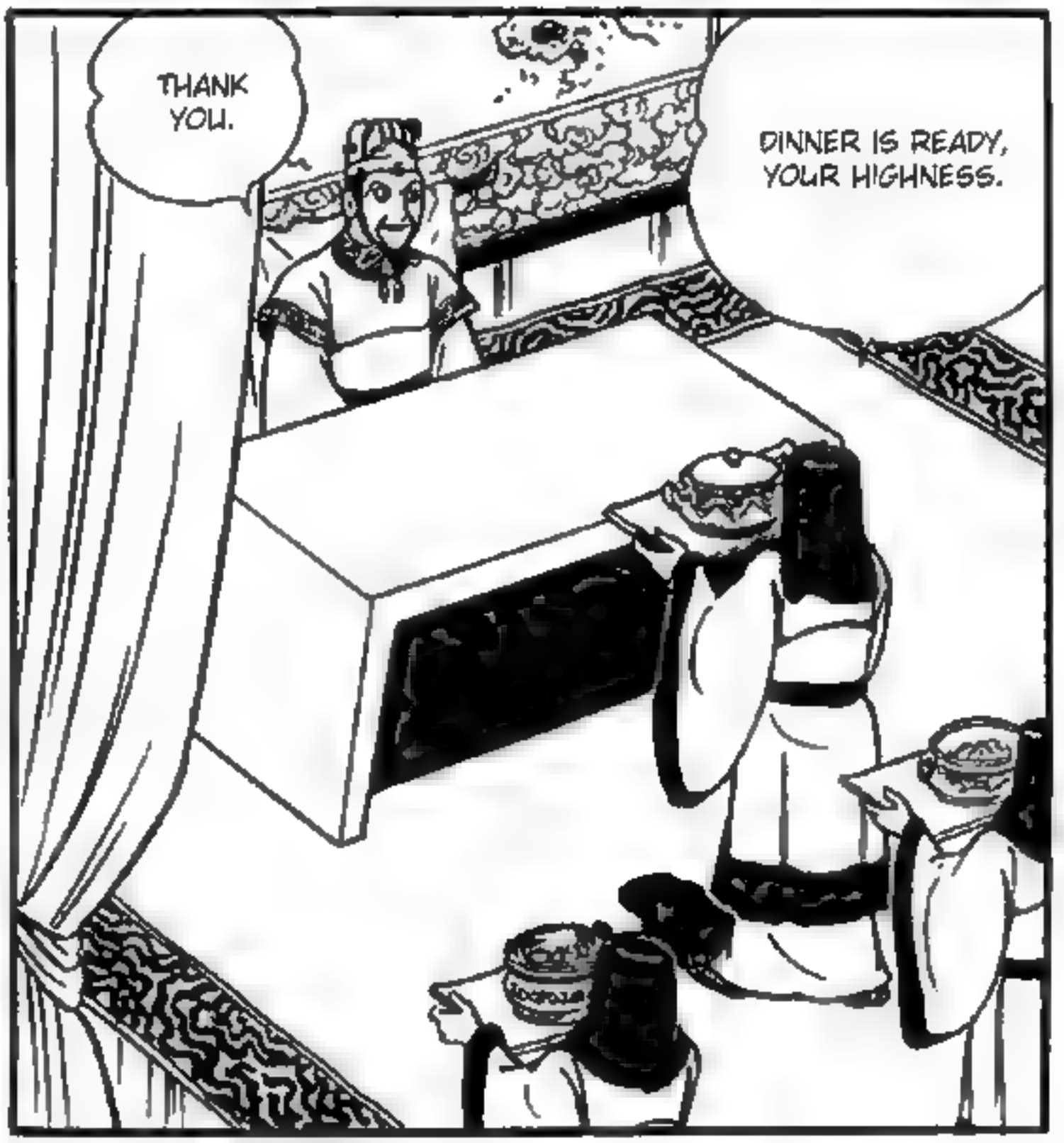
THUS, CAO ZHANG'S ARRIVAL MERELY HAD THE EFFECT OF POURING OIL ONTO FIRE

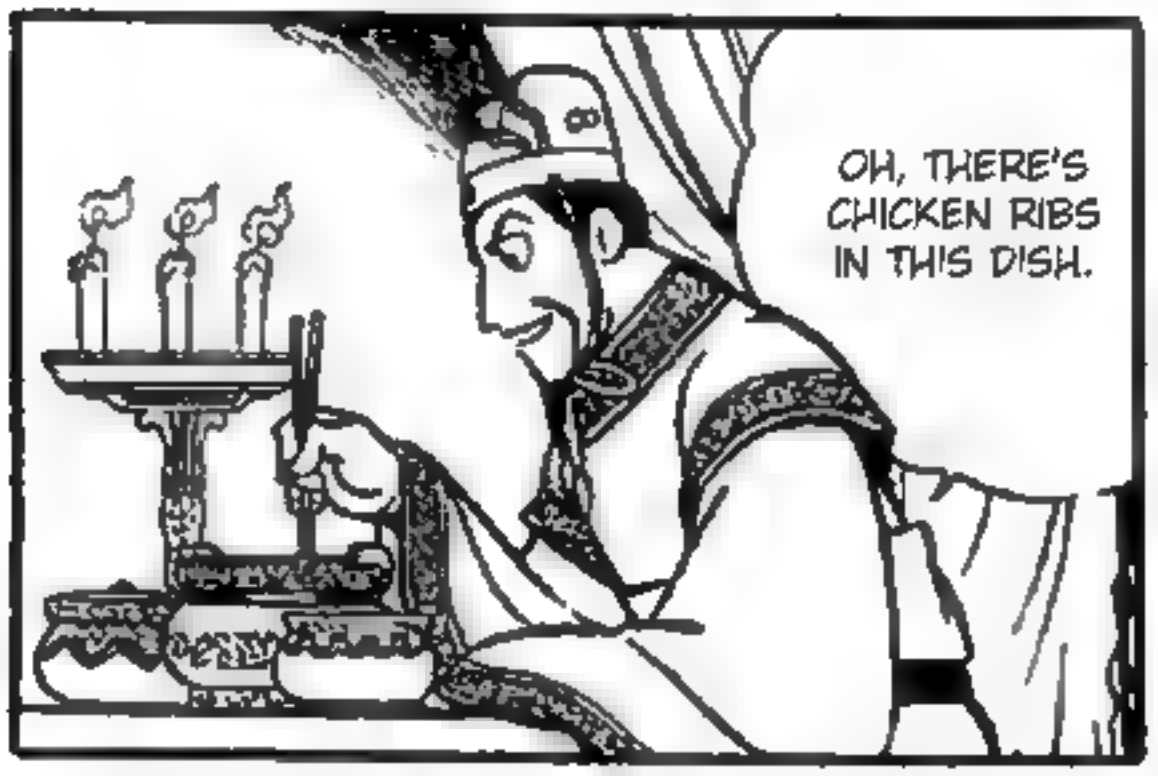
THE WEI FORCES FOUND THEMSELVES IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE


姒
曹
魏

AH, CHICKEN?

I WILL CALL YOU IF I NEED YOU. YOU MAY NOW EXCUSE YOURSELVES.


THANK YOU.
DINNER IS READY, YOUR HIGHNESS.


OH, THERE'S CHICKEN RIBS IN THIS DISH.

AS YOU WISH.

CUT MY LOSSES OR CONTINUE THIS FRUITLESS WAR WITH LITTLE HOPE OF WINNING OUT OF FEAR OF LOSING PRESTIGE... WHICHEVER CHOICE, I MUST DECIDE SOON.

CHICKEN RIBS HAVE TOO LITTLE MEAT TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF PICKING AT IT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY'RE TOO GOOD TO SIMPLY THROW AWAY... WHAT A FITTING METAPHOR OF THIS CURRENT WAR.

EXCUSE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WHAT TO DO... WHAT TO DO...

CHICKEN RIBS... CHICKEN RIBS...

WHAT SHALL TONIGHT'S PASSWORD FOR THE GUARDS BE?

WELL, I'LL INFORM THE GUARDS AT ONCE.

?

CHICKEN RIBS? DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY, SIR?

BUT THIS WAS A DISTRACTED MUTTERING FROM CAO CAO, WHO WAS UNAWARE THAT XIAHOU DUN HAD ASKED HIM A QUESTION

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

THE PASSWORD FOR TONIGHT'S GUARD DUTY WILL BE "CHICKEN RIBS."

CHICKEN RIBS?

TONIGHT'S PASSWORD IS CHICKEN RIBS, SIR.

OH?

TONIGHT'S PASSWORD IS CHICKEN RIBS, SIR.

UNDERSTOOD. I'LL GET THE PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY.

PREPARA-TIONS?

YES, SIR.

HIS HIGHNESS SAID "CHICKEN RIBS?"

YES, THE KING OF WEI HAS ORDERED THE RETREAT.

BACK TO THE CAPITAL?

START THE PREP-ARATIONS TO WITHDRAW BACK TO THE CAPITAL.

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON? THAT YANG XIU'S ALWAYS HAD A MIND AS SHARP AS A KNIFE SO HE MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR THIS...

YES, SIR.
WHAT? YANG XIU HAS ORDERED PREPARATIONS TO RETREAT TO THE CAPITAL?

VERY WELL, I WILL GO ASK TO FIND OUT MORE.

HMM, HE REALLY IS GETTING THINGS ALL PACKED UP.

AH, GOOD EVENING, XIAHOU DUN.

YANG XIU.

HIS HIGHNESS UTTERED CHICKEN RIBS TO YOU, DID HE NOT?

WHY IS IT THAT YOU'VE ORDERED YOUR MEN TO START PACKING?

ALTHOUGH HE'S ALREADY REALIZED THERE'S LITTLE PROFIT TO BE HAD FROM THE REMAINDER OF THIS WAR, HE TACTFULLY WISHED TO GAUGE HOW WE OFFICERS FELT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE MORALE OF THE LOWER RANKS, HENCE THE CRYPTIC PASSWORD.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CHANCELLOR SEES THIS CURRENT WAR AS NOTHING MORE THAN CHICKEN RIBS.

CHICKEN RIBS HAVE TOO LITTLE MEAT TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF PICKING AT IT. STILL, THEY TASTE GOOD ENOUGH THAT IT'D BE A WASTE TO THROW THEM OUT.

YOU REALLY ARE A MIND READER, YANG XIU. I'LL PASS ON THE RETREAT ORDER TO THE OTHER OFFICERS THEN.

AHH! NOW THAT'S A SENSIBLE EXPLANATION.

UGH, I CAN'T GET ANY SLEEP.

MNN...

MAYBE I'LL FEEL MORE AT EASE IF I INSPECTED THE CAMPS.

I FEEL AS IF ENEMIES MIGHT COME RAIDING ANY MOMENT NOW...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT'S ALL THIS PACKING FOR? DID SOMEONE GIVE THE ORDER TO RETREAT?

XIAHOU DUN!

AH, YOUR HIGHNESS!

BRING YANG XIU TO ME AT ONCE!

YES, SIR.

HIM AGAIN...

YANG XIU?

YANG XIU HAS INFERRED THE SECRET DESIRE IN YOUR HIGHNESS' HEART, AND THUS ORDERED US TO FAITHFULLY CARRY IT OUT.

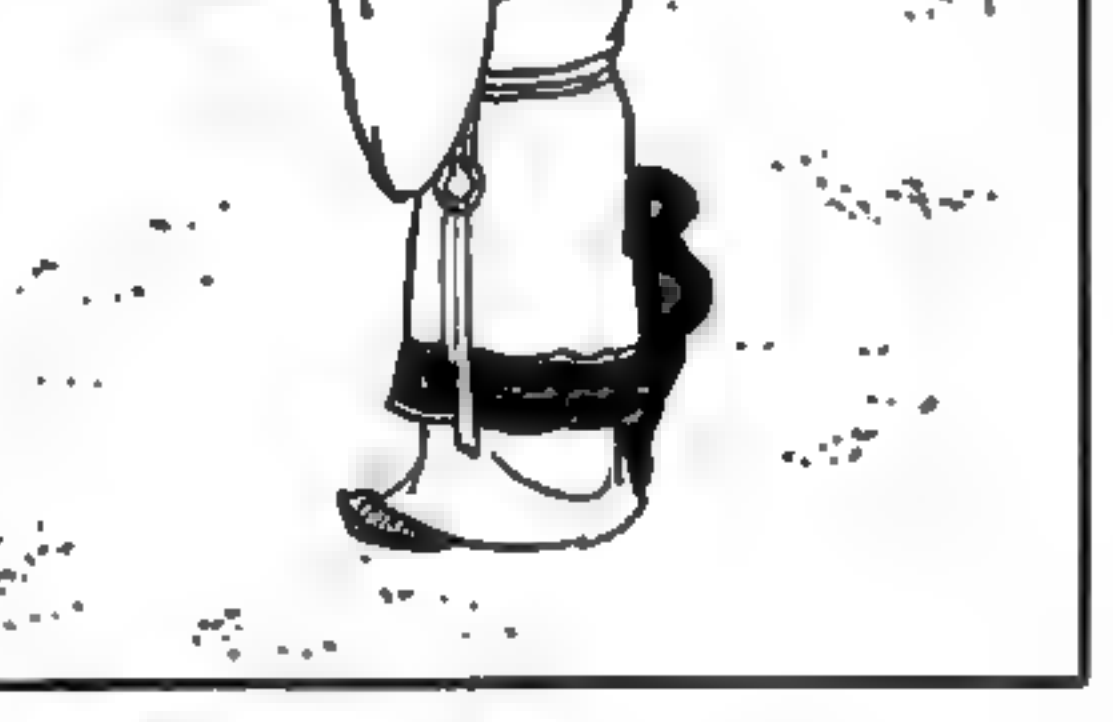
YES, SIR.

CALL YANG XIU RIGHT AWAY.

SIR, HIS HIGHNESS WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU URGENTLY.

WAS IT YOU WHO GAVE THE ORDER TO RETREAT?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS?

CAO CAO FELT A COLD CHILL RUN DOWN HIS SPINE AT HAVING THE VERY DEPTHS OF HIS HEART READ LIKE AN OPEN BOOK.


FROM YOUR PASSWORD TONIGHT, I INFERRED THAT YOU WISHED TO RETREAT SO I SIMPLY PASSED ON THE MESSAGE.

YANG XIU WAS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE INTELLECT BUT HIS WIT, LACKING RESTRAINT, PROVED TO BE TOO SHARP ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, UNNERVING CAO CAO.

ONE INCIDENT INVOLVED THE UNVEILING OF A GARDEN IN THE INNER PALACE

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

BEATS ME...

SHOWING NEITHER PLEASURE NOR DISPLEASURE, CAO CAO SIMPLY WROTE 活 ON THE GATES AND LEFT THE GARDEN

活

IT'S YANG XIU! SURELY HE'LL KNOW HOW THE CHANCELLOR FELT. LET'S GO ASK HIM!

AH!

WHAT IS IT?

CAN YOU HELP US WITH A PROBLEM, SIR?

OH?

THE CHANCELLOR SIMPLY LEFT THE GARDEN WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, THOUGH HE DID WRITE 活 (LIFE) ON THE GATES. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT BY THIS CRYPTIC ACTION?

REALLY?

THE CHANCELLOR FEELS THAT THE GARDEN IS TOO WIDE. YOU SHOULD THUS RENOVATE IT TO GIVE A MORE "SNUG" FEEL...

闊

LEADS TO THE CHARACTER MEANING "WIDE."

門

LIFE (活) WRITTEN UNDER GATES (門),

活

IS THIS THE MARK?

YOUR MIND IS AS SHARP AS EVER, SIR.

SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!

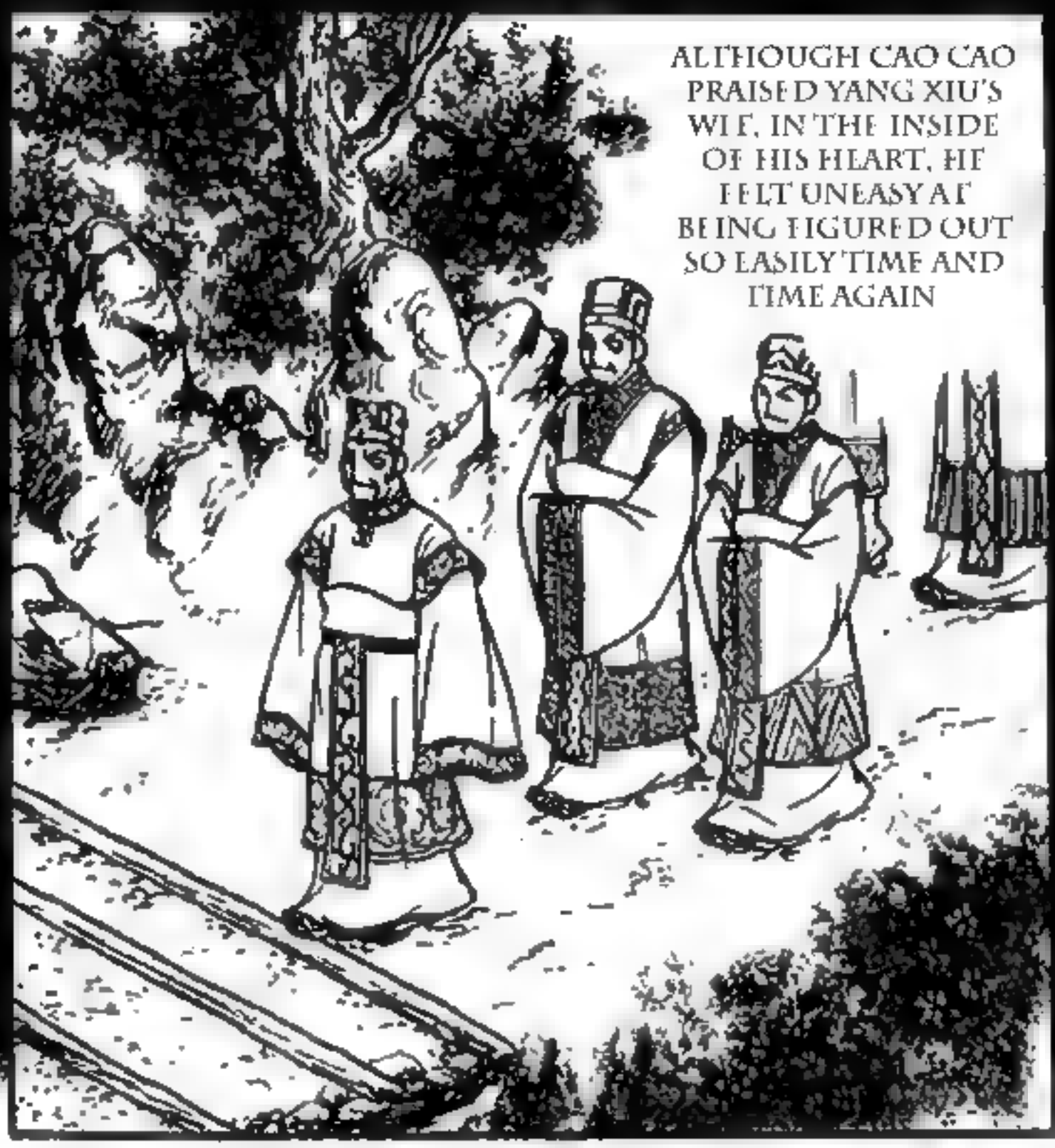
AH!

THUS, THE WORKERS REBUILT THE GARDEN TO CAO CAO'S PREFERENCE

AFTER COMPLETION, CAO CAO CAME TO TOUR THE GARDEN ONCE AGAIN

MASTER YANG XIU LENT US HIS WISDOM, SIR.

EXCELLENT WORK! MIGHT I ASK WHO IT WAS THAT FIGURED OUT MY MESSAGE?


ALTHOUGH CAO CAO PRAISED YANG XIU'S WIT, IN THE INSIDE OF HIS HEART, HE FELT UNEASY AT BEING FIGURED OUT SO EASILY TIME AND TIME AGAIN

ANOTHER SUCH INSTANCE
GOES LIKE THIS...

YES?

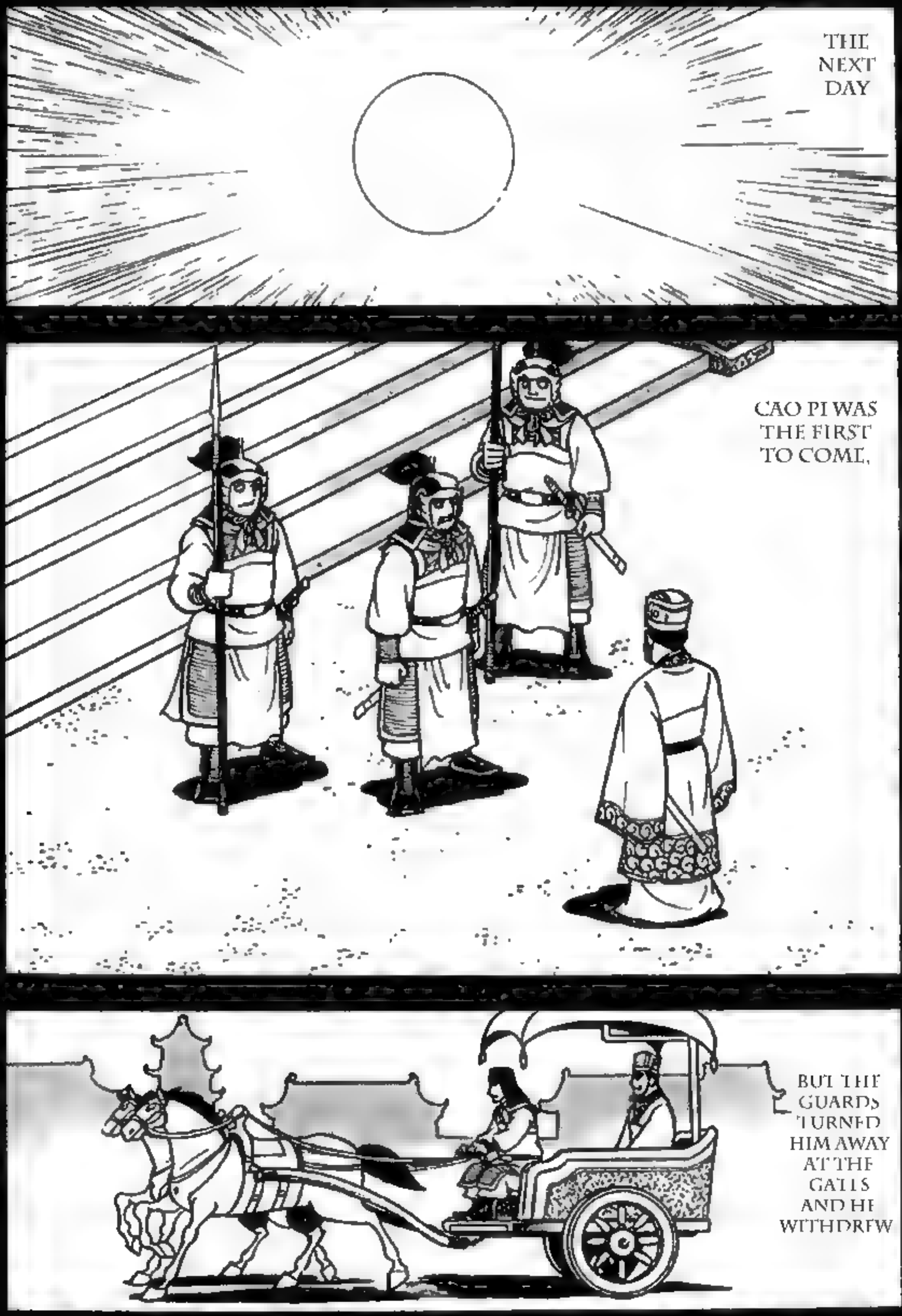
YOU THERE!

YES, SIR.

CALL MY ELDEST SON CAO PI AND MY THIRD SON CAO ZHI TO THE PALACE.

AS YOU WISH.

BUT WHEN THE TWO APPRAOCH THE GATES, DO NOT LET EITHER OF THEM IN.


THE NEXT DAY
CAO PI WAS THE FIRST TO COME.
BUT THE GUARDS TURNED HIM AWAY AT THE GATES AND HE WITHDREW

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WON'T LET ME PASS!? THE KING OF WEI HAS ORDERED ME TO COME!

I'M SORRY SIR, BUT WE WERE GIVEN STRICT ORDERS TO BAR ANY ENTRY

WHEN CAO ZHI ARRIVED, THE GUARDS ONCE AGAIN FORBID ANY ENTRY

BUT...

SILENCE! AN ORDER FROM THE KING MUST BE CARRIED OUT WHEN GIVEN!

DO YOU STILL OPPOSE ME?

AGHH!

GOOD.

N-NO, SIR!

YES, BUT WERE YOU NOT STOPPED AT THE GATES, CAO ZHI?

DID YOU CALL FOR ME, FATHER?

WHAT!? YOU KILLED HIM!?

YES, BUT I CUT DOWN THE GUARD WHO FORBID ME.

I JUDGED THAT AN ORDER FROM YOU, ONCE GIVEN, SHOULD BE FOLLOWED NO MATTER WHAT.

SPLENDID! IT IS THAT UNRELENTING WILL WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO SURVIVE IN TIMES OF CHAOS. YOU TRULY ARE MY SON!

SO IT WASN'T HIS OWN IDEA...?

NO, SIR.

YES, SIR.

WHAT!? THAT WAS WHAT YANG XIU TOLD CAO ZHI TO DO!?

DAMN THAT YANG XIU FOR NEEDLESSLY MEDDLING...

I SEE...

BEING GOOD FRIENDS WITH CAO ZHI, YANG XIU HAD ALSO WRITTEN AN ANSWER BOOK FOR HIM.

IT CONTAINED ANSWERS FOR MANY IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF GOVERNANCE AND WARFARE

AS THE ELDEST SON, CAO PI BELIEVED HE WAS THE FITTING SUCCESSOR AND THUS RESENTED THESE ACTIONS.

HAVING MEMORIZED THESE ANSWERS, CAO ZHI ALWAYS HAD A FLUENT REPLY WHENEVER CAO CAO ASKED HIM A QUESTION.

AND SO, CAO PI BRIBED ONE OF CAO ZHI'S SERVANTS TO STEAL THIS "ANSWER BOOK" AND SHOWED IT TO HIS FATHER

CAO CAO THEN UNDERSTOOD WHY CAO ZHI FOUND IT SO EASY TO ANSWER EVERY ONE OF HIS QUESTIONS.

SO YANG XIU WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE THIS STUPID CHEAT-SHEET...

FROM THAT MOMENT, CAO CAO HAD DECIDED TO ELIMINATE YANG XIU

THE NEXT TIME HE SLIPS UP, I'LL USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO REMOVE HIM...

HE'S OVERSTEPPING HIS BOUNDS BY MEDDLING IN A MATTER AS SERIOUS AS CHOOSING MY SUCCESSOR. IT'S THESE SORTS OF ACTIONS THAT SPLITS A FAMILY APART AND LEADS TO BLOODSHED AMONG BROTHERS...

THE "CHICKEN RIBS" INCIDENT WAS MERELY THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT BY "CHICKEN RIBS!" YOU HAVE OVERSTEPPED YOUR BOUNDS BY USING YOUR WIT TO MANIPULATE THE ARMY TO DO YOUR OWN DOING! FOR THIS HEAVY CRIME, I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!

BUT...

SILENCE! I'VE FORGIVEN YOUR LACK OF RESTRAINT SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! I CANNOT HAVE YOU COMPROMISING THE CHAIN OF COMMAND IN MY ARMY!

B-BUT THEN, WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY TONIGHT'S PASSWORD, YOUR HIGHNESS...!?

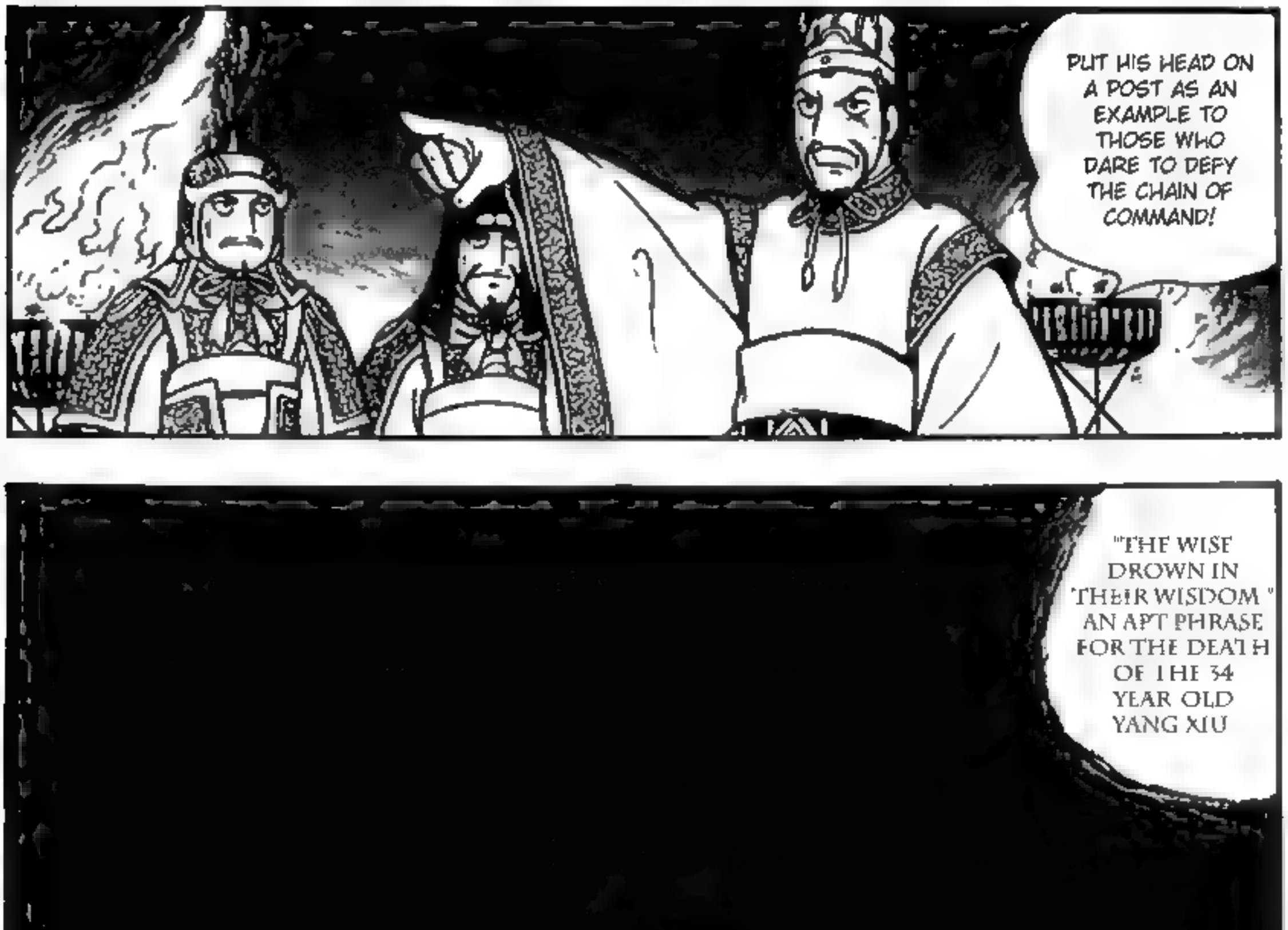
XIAHOU DUN! MUST I EXECUTE YOU AS WELL FOR ABETTING HIM!?

OFF WITH HIS HEAD ALREADY!

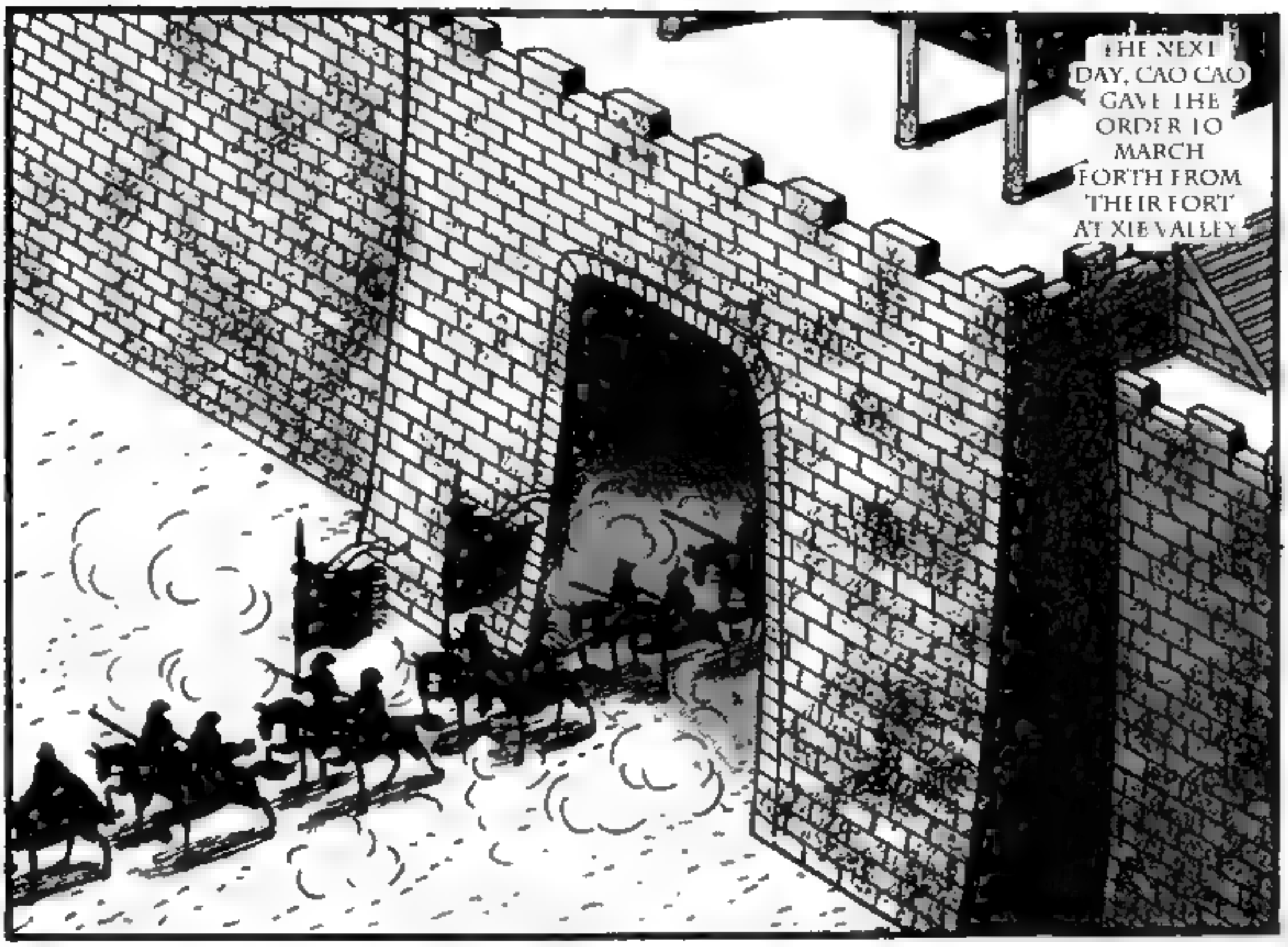
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS!

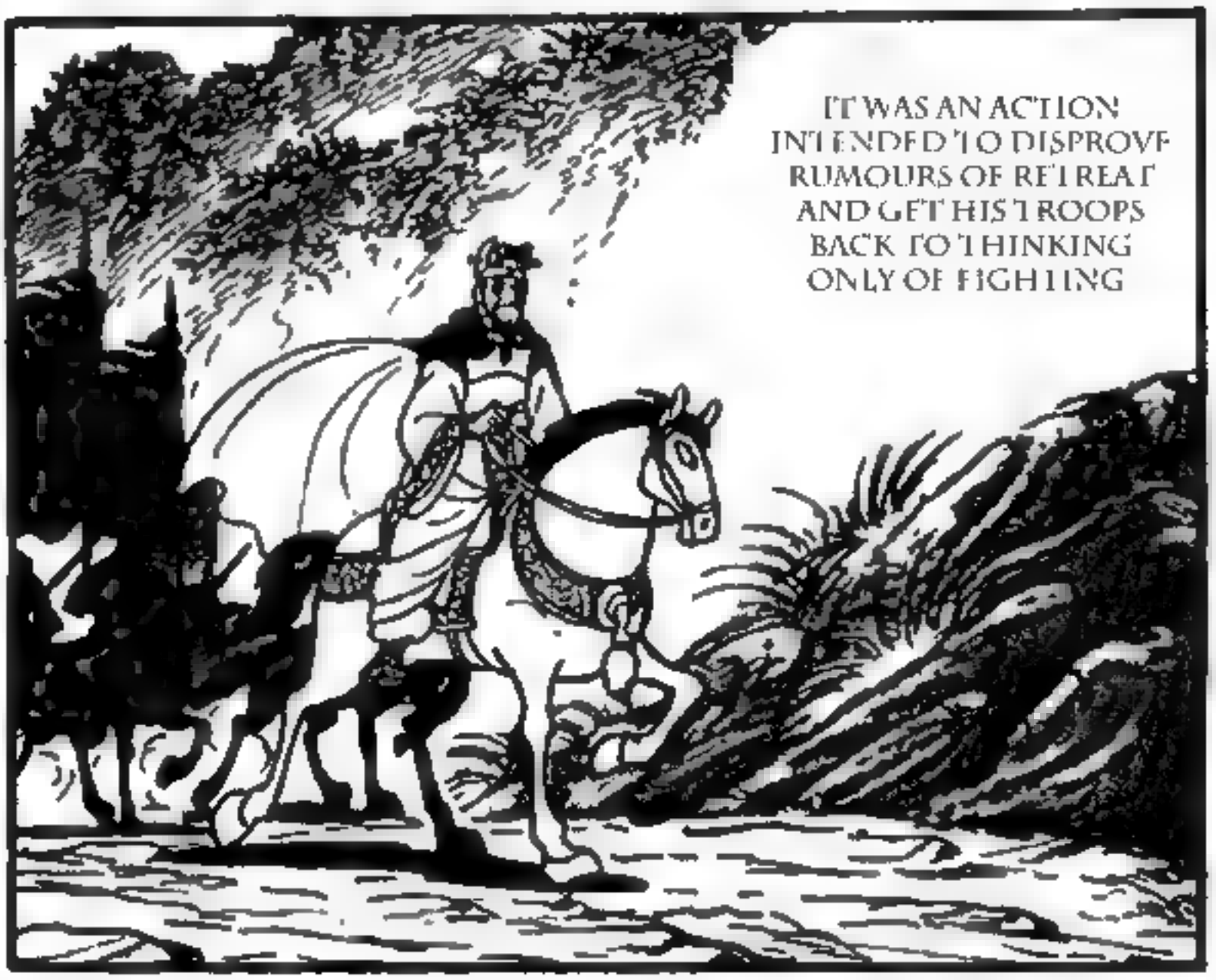
FORGIVE ME, BUT I MUST CARRY OUT HIS HIGHNESS' ORDERS.

PREPARE YOURSELF, SIR..


PUT HIS HEAD ON A POST AS AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFY THE CHAIN OF COMMAND!
"THE WISE DROWN IN THEIR WISDOM " AN APT PHRASE FOR THE DEATH OF THE 34 YEAR OLD YANG XIU

DESPERATE RETREAT





IT'S WEI YAN'S BANNER, SIR.

魏延

YES.

PANG DE, GO OUT AND CHALLENGE HIM.

A WORTHY OPPONENT, INDEED!

WEI YAN! I, PANG DE, WILL BE YOUR MATCH TODAY!

カッ
カッ

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

HM?

WHAT!?

OUR FORT AT XIE VALLEY IS UNDER SIEGE FROM MA CHAO'S FORCES!

URGENT REPORT!

AHH!

曹

NO, IT'S TOO LATE. OUR BEST CHANCE IS TO DEAL WITH ONE ENEMY AT A TIME BY TAKING DOWN WEI YAN FIRST.

SIR, WE MUST RETURN NOW BEFORE IT FALLS INTO THEIR HANDS!

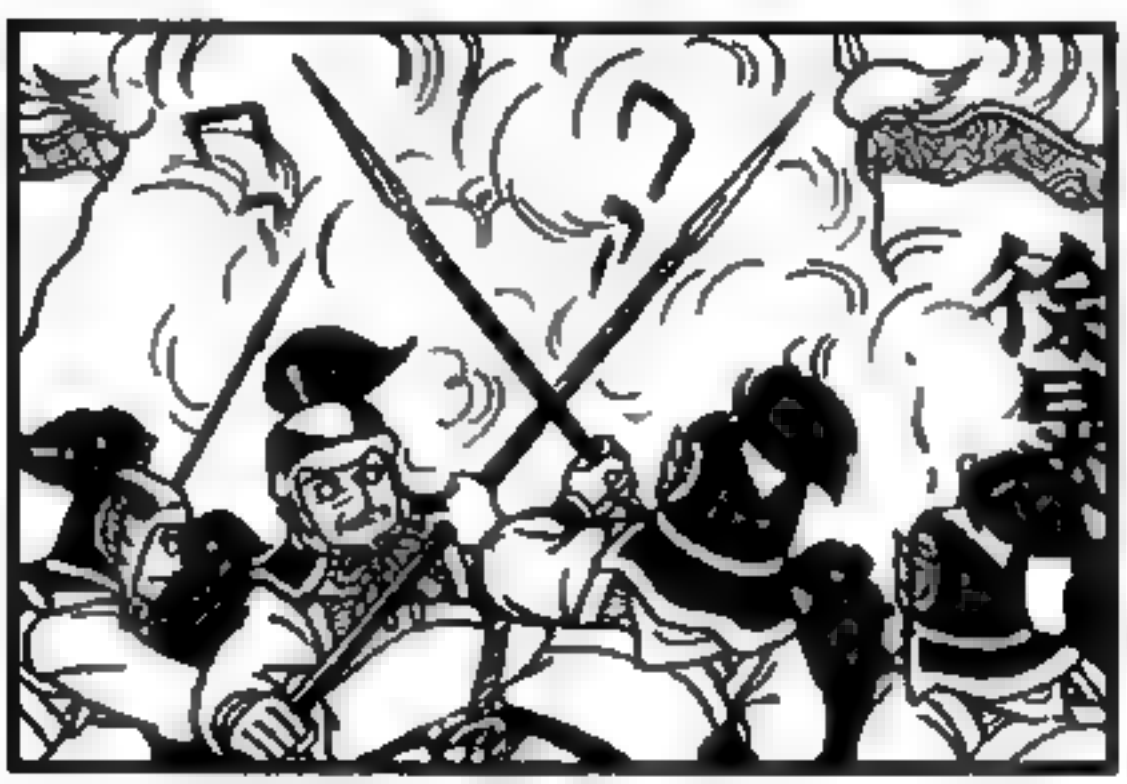
曹

I WILL PERSONALLY CUT DOWN ANY MAN WHO SHOWS COWARDICE! NOW ADVANCE!

BUT...

I SAID CHARGE!

織田軍


徳川

魏延

AGHH!
THIS IS
BAD!

YES, SIR.

GOOD, THEY'RE FLEEING. HOLD BACK THE PURSUIT.

ADVANCE!

WELL DONE, MEN. NOW THAT THE ENEMIES TO OUR FRONT HAVE BEEN ROUTED, LET US TURN AROUND AND DO THE SAME UNTO MA CHAO'S FORCES.

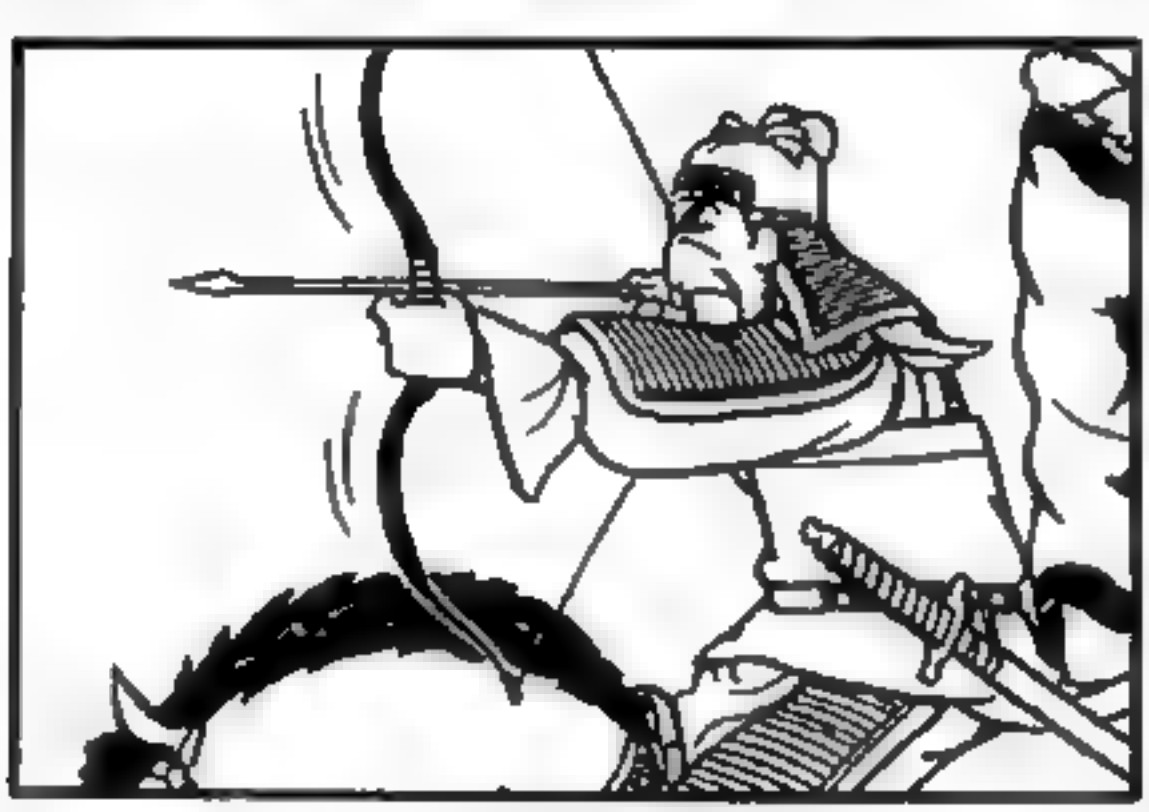
LET US HEAD OVER TO THAT HILL SO AS TO GAIN A COMMAND-ING VIEW OVER THE BATTLEFIELD.

YES, GOOD. KEEP ADVANCING.

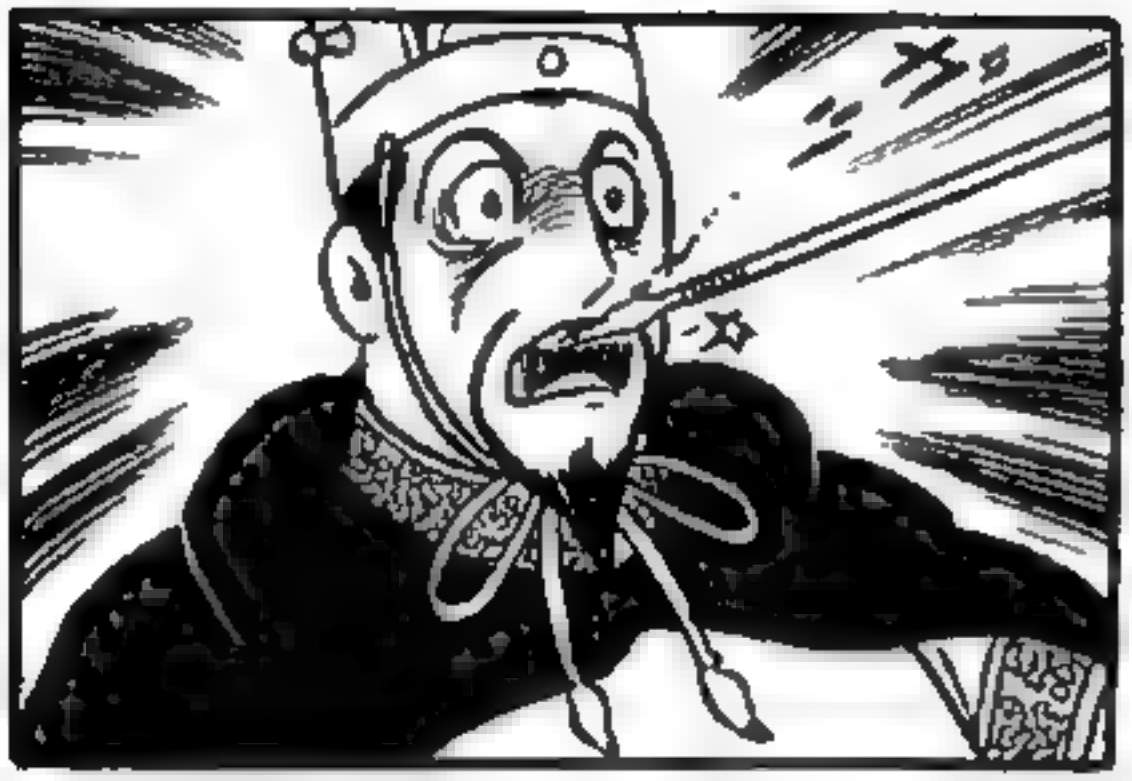
HM?

?
HM?

WEI YAN IS STILL HERE, CAO CAO!



AGHH!


ズズ

ヒュン

YOUR HIGHNESS!

ズズズ

SIR!

ATTACK!
突撃

YOU AGAIN!? CURSES!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY!

SIR!

NGHH...

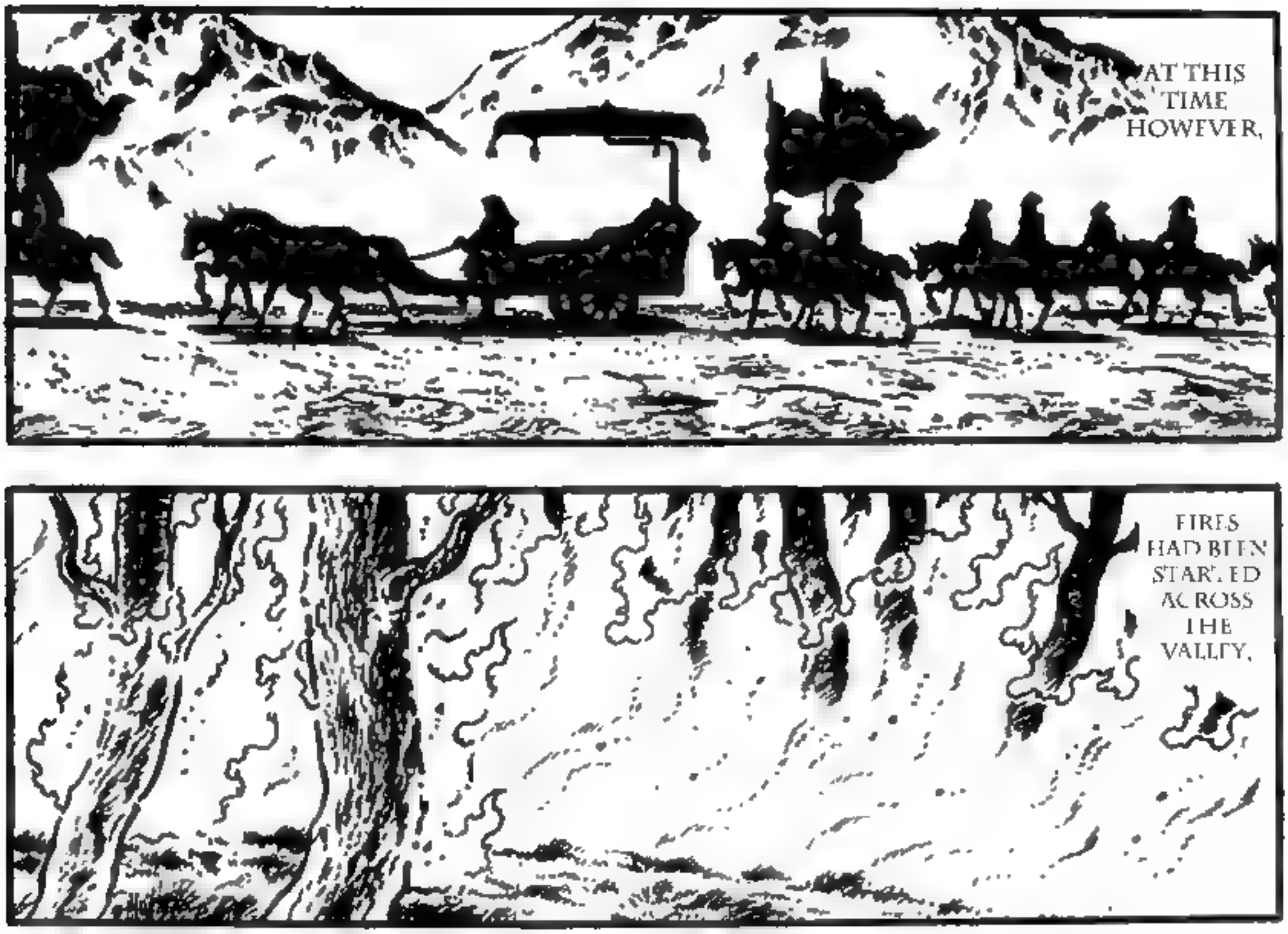
THOUGH THEY'RE BADLY BROKEN, THE HEAVENS MUST HAVE LENT YOU THEIR DIVINE PROTECTION.

AHH! HIS HIGHNESS' FRONT TEETH HAVE FORTUNATELY BLOCKED THE ARROW.

PUT HIS HIGHNESS UP ON HIS HORSE AND ESCORT HIM OUT OF HERE!

曹

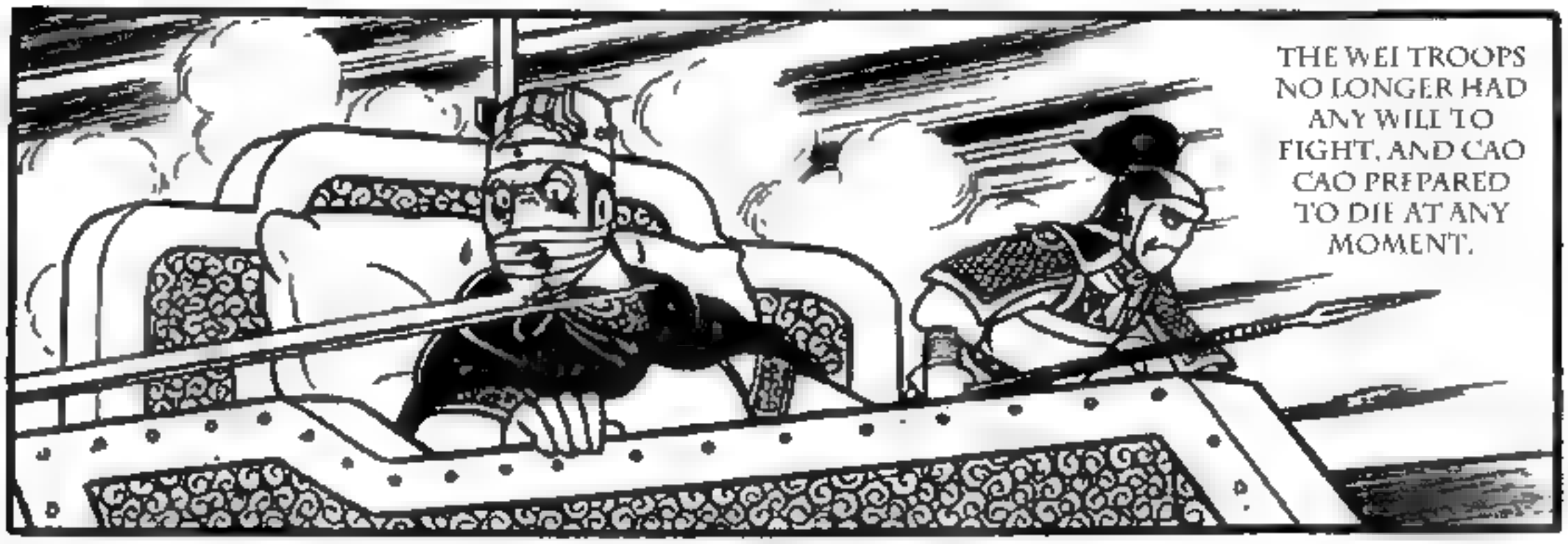
FORTUNATELY, THE WEI ARMY HAD MANAGED TO BEAT BACK MA CHAO S TROOPS, AND THEY NOW TRIED TO RETURN BACK TO THEIR FORT AT XIE VALLEY

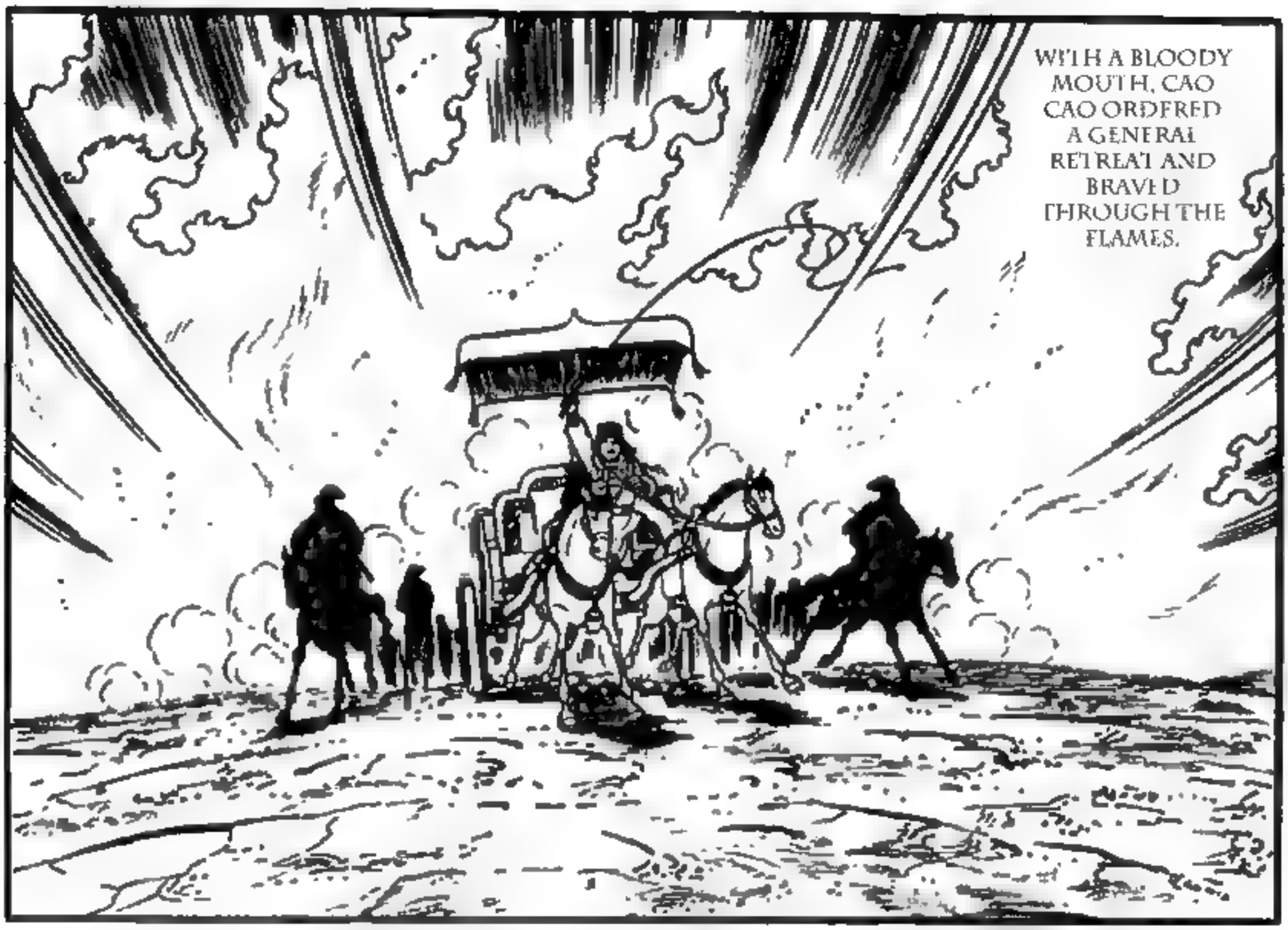

AT THIS
TIME
HOWEVER,
FIRES
HAD BEEN
STARTED
ACROSS
THE
VALLEY,
AND SHU
TROOPS
HIDDEN ALL
AROUND BY
KONGMING

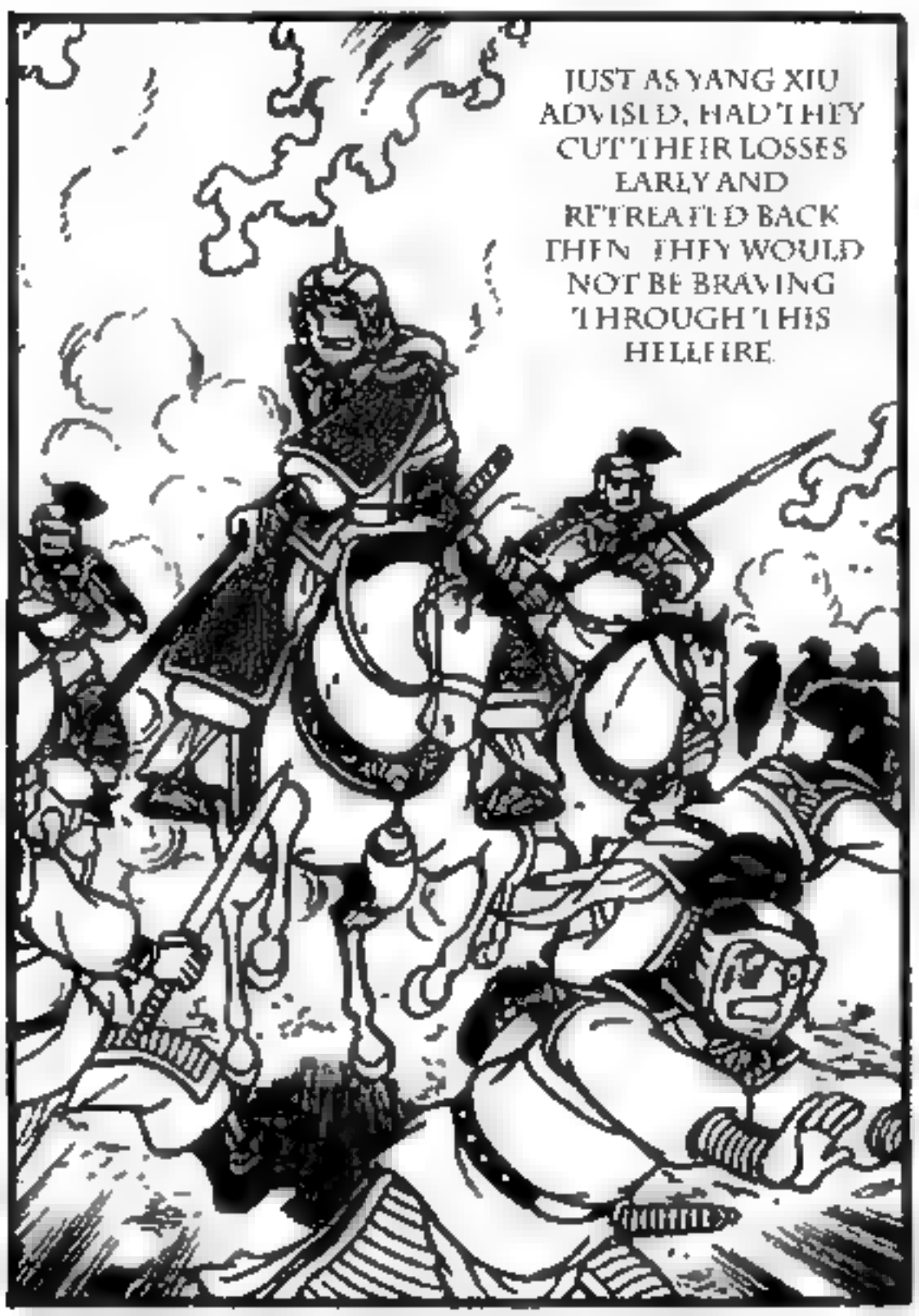
SIGNALLED BY THE FLAMES.

THE AMBUSH FORCES LEAPT FORTH ONE BY ONE.

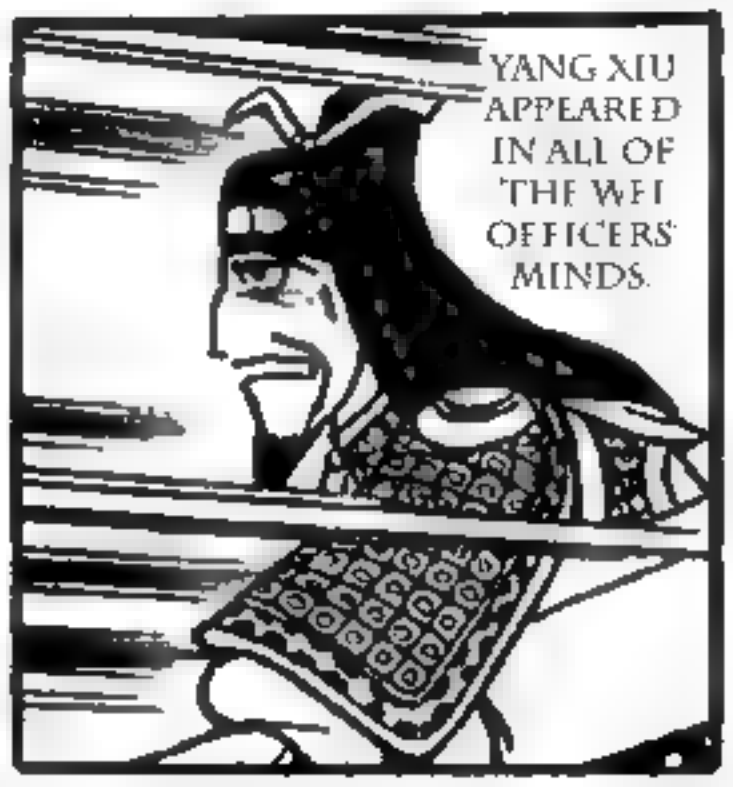
AND HARASSED CAO CAO AT EVERY STEP
张

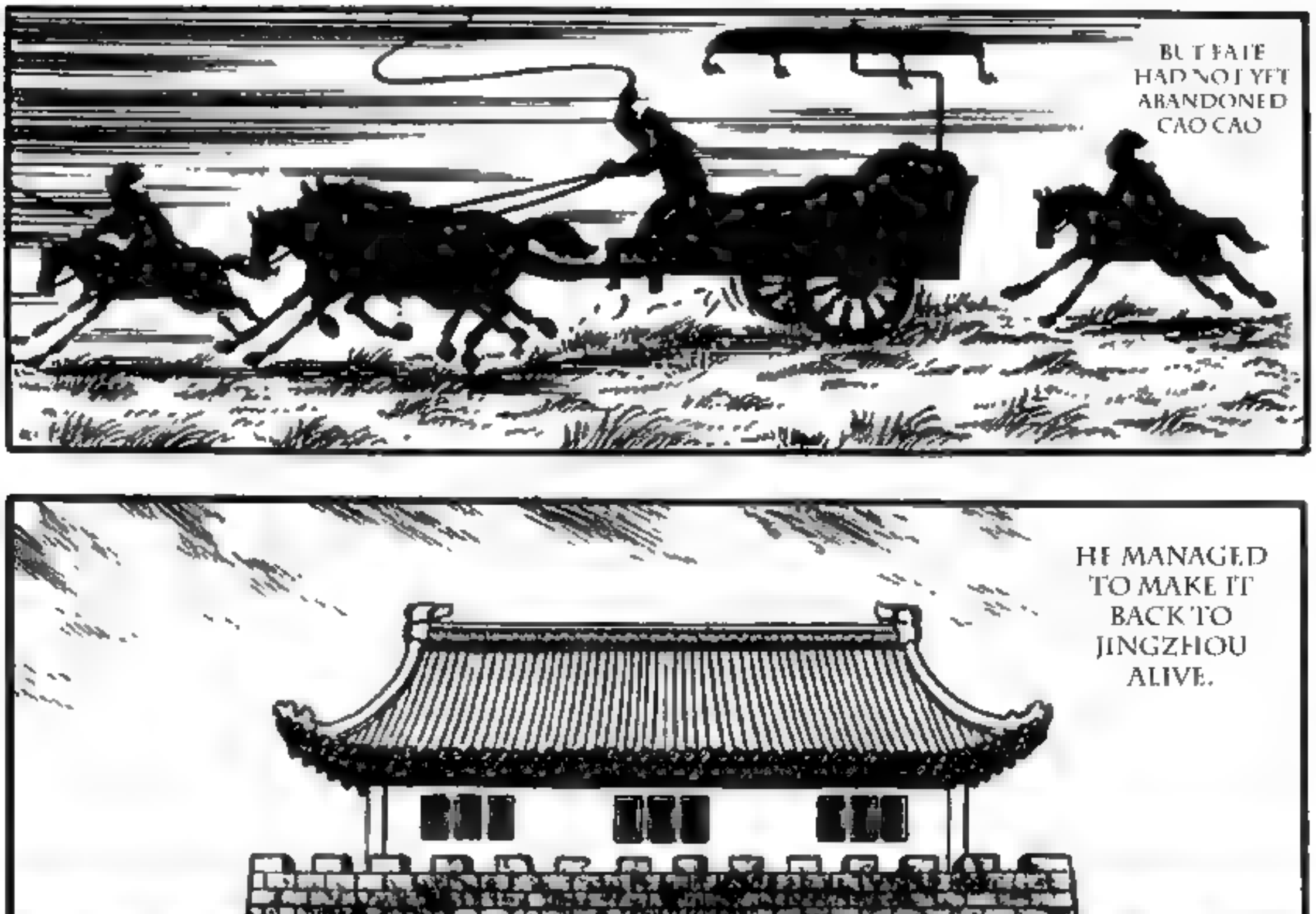

THE WEI TROOPS NO LONGER HAD ANY WILL TO FIGHT, AND CAO CAO PREPARED TO DIE AT ANY MOMENT.

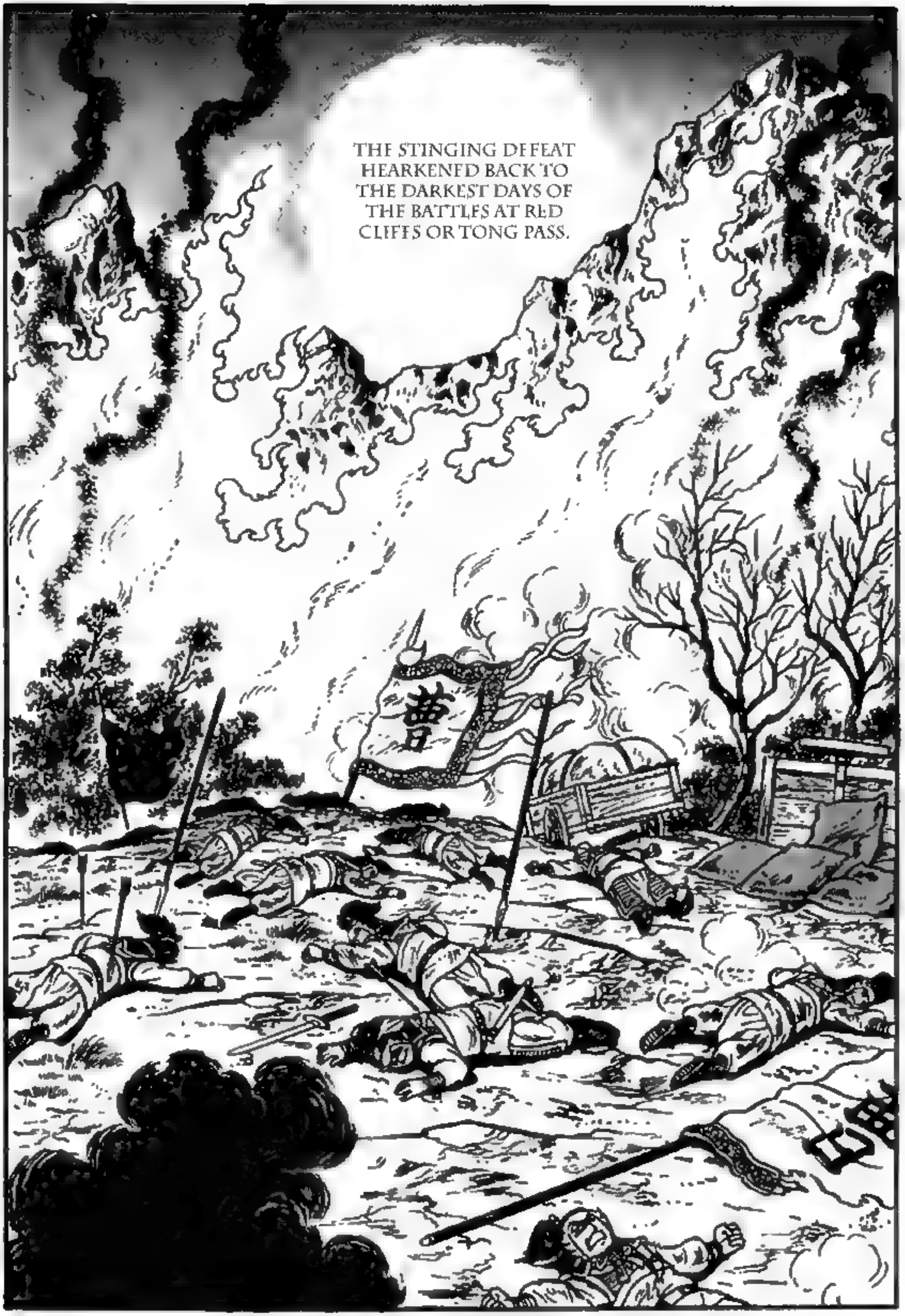

WITH A BLOODY MOUTH, CAO CAO ORDERED A GENERAL RETREAT AND BRAVED THROUGH THE FLAMES.


JUST AS YANG XIU ADVISED, HAD THEY CUT THEIR LOSSES EARLY AND RETREATED BACK THEN, THEY WOULD NOT BE BRAVING THROUGH THIS HELLFIRE.

DURING THIS FRANTIC RETREAT,


YANG XIU APPEARED IN ALL OF THE WEI OFFICERS' MINDS.

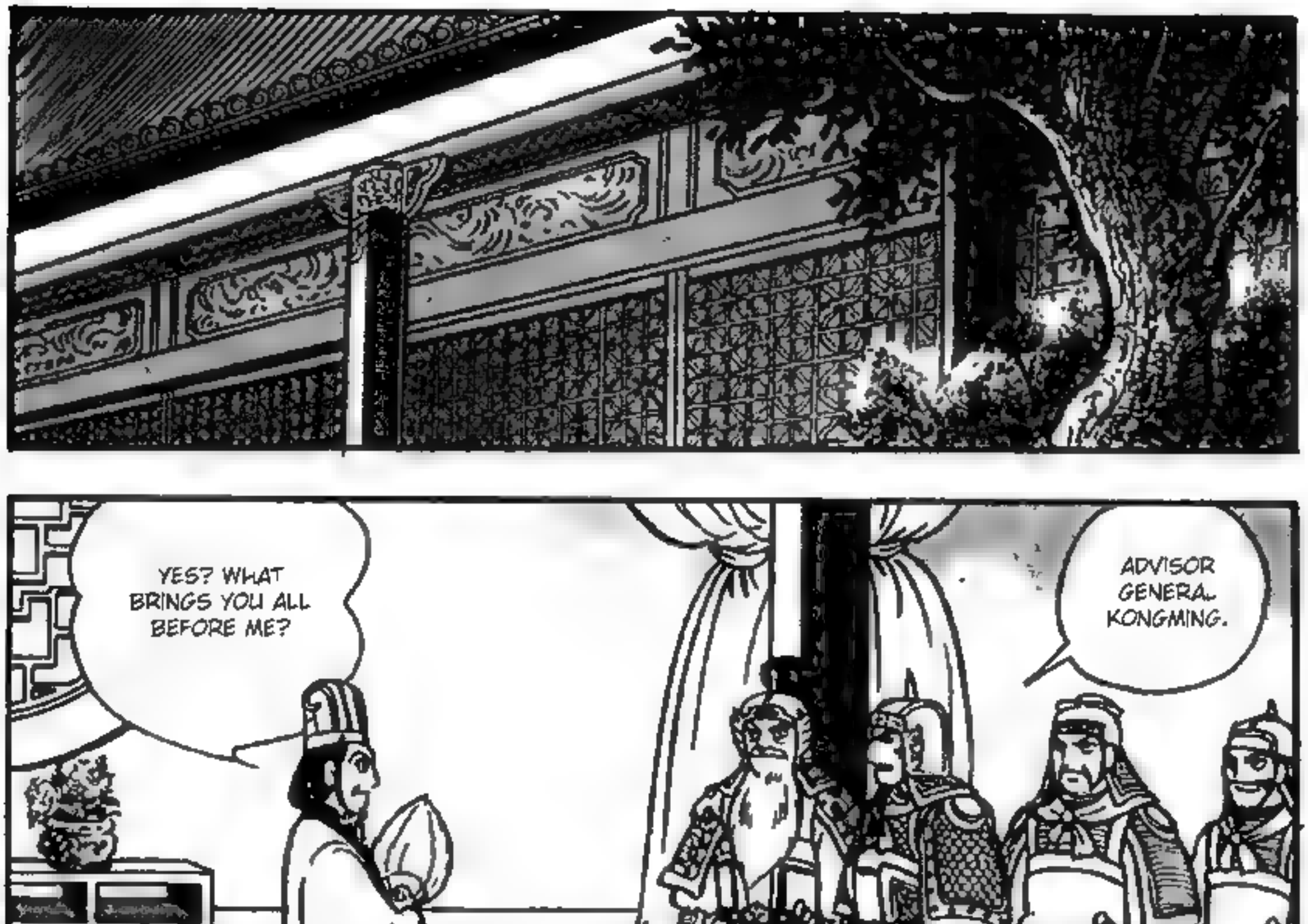

BUT FATE
HAD NOT YET
ABANDONED
CAO CAO
HE MANAGED
TO MAKE IT
BACK TO
JINGZHOU
ALIVE.

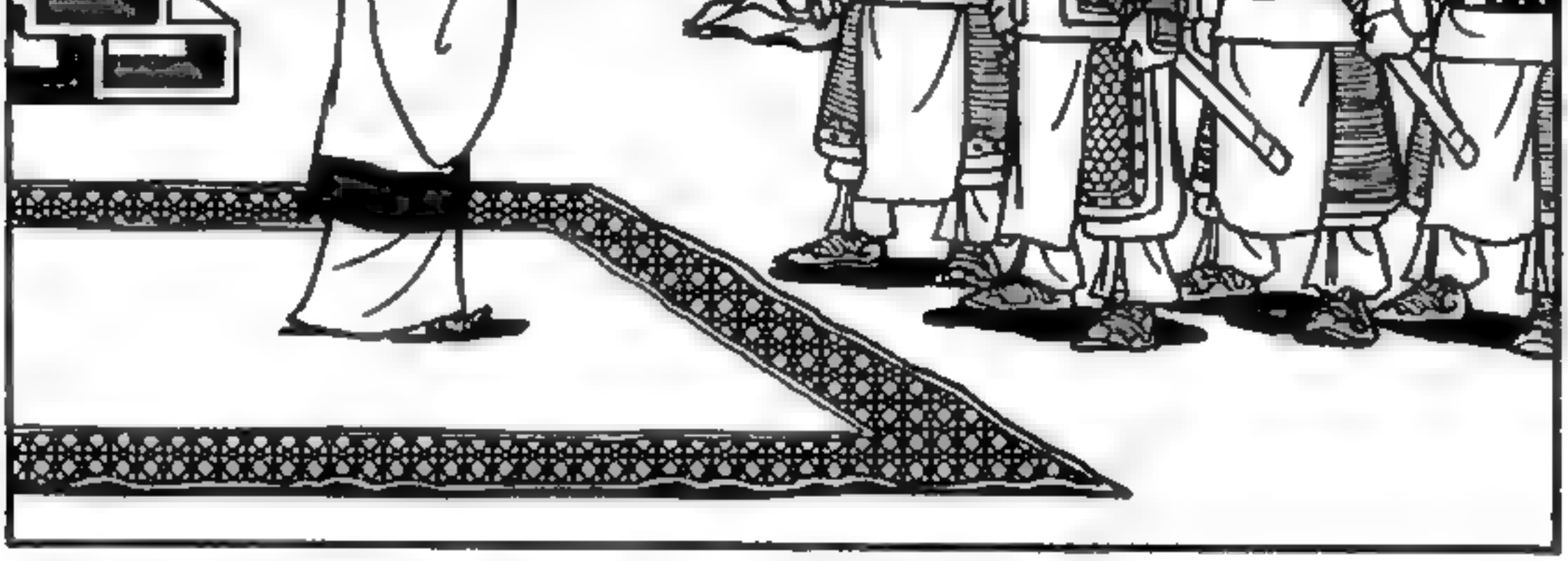

THE STINGING DEFEAT HEARKENED BACK TO THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE BATTLES AT RED CLIFFS OR TONG PASS.

KING OF HANZHONG

HAVING UNITED YIZHOU (SHU) AND HANZHONG'S LANDS UNDER ONE RULE, LIU BEI'S STATE WAS NOW A POWERFUL COMPETITOR FOR THE ENTIRE REALM.

THE JOY AMONG LIU BEI'S OFFICERS WHO HAD BRAVED YEARS OF HARDSHIP WAS INEFFABLE.


YES? WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL BEFORE ME?
ADVISOR GENERAL KONGMING.


AH, I'VE BEEN PONDERING OVER THAT ISSUE MYSELF AS WELL.
ALL OF US HERE WISH TO SERVE OUR LORD AS OUR NEW EMPEROR BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

OH, SO YOU'VE BEEN HAVING SIMILAR THOUGHTS?

EXCELLENT. WE SHALL LEAVE THE MATTER IN YOUR HANDS THEN.

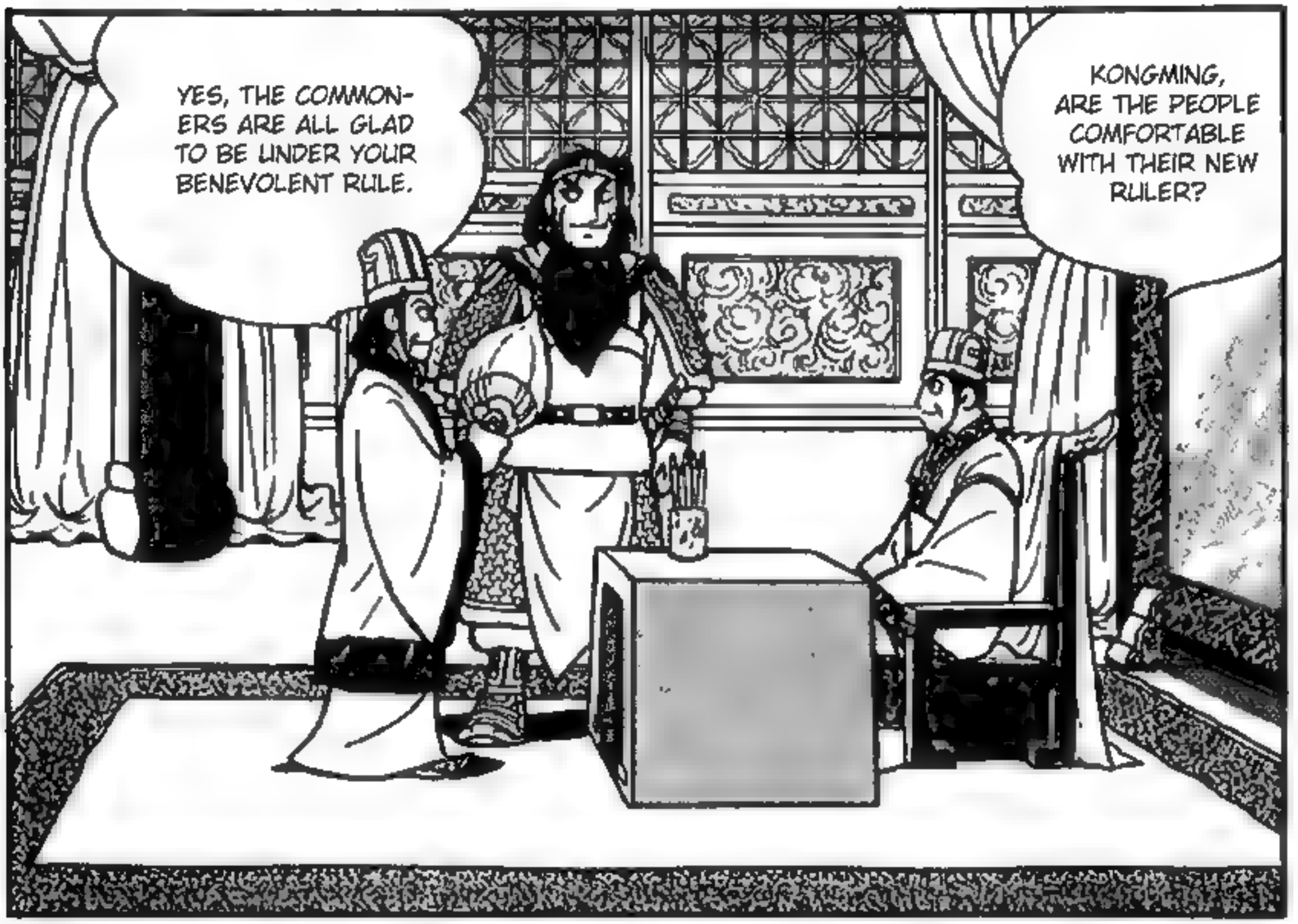
VERY WELL, I SHALL BROACH THE SUBJECT WITH OUR LORD.

IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE IMPERTINENT FOR US TO GO DIRECTLY TO OUR LORD AND ASK HIM TO BECOME AN EMPEROR.

SO WE CAME HERE BEFORE YOU TO SEE IF YOU CAN HELP US.

EXACTLY. WITH OUR NEW MIGHT, WE NO LONGER NEED TO FEAR CAO CAO OF WEI NOR SUN QUAN OF WU!

HAHA, IF THIS GOES WELL, IT'LL GIVE US ALL THE MORE REASON TO WORK HARDER!


YES, THE COMMONERS ARE ALL GLAD TO BE UNDER YOUR BENEVOLENT RULE.
KONGMING, ARE THE PEOPLE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR NEW RULER?

HMM?

NOW THEN, IT IS TIME FOR MY LORD TO MENTALLY RESOLVE YOURSELF.

YES, I KNOW. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD, IS IT NOT? WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF OVER-THROWING CAO CAO.

PRESENTLY, THE EMPEROR OF HAN AND HIS IMPERIAL COURT HAVE LOST THEIR POWER AND ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CAO CAO'S PAWNS. THE PEOPLE OF THE REALM LACK A CAPABLE SOVEREIGN TO GUIDE THEM.

YES, WHEN I THINK HOW I'VE RISEN FROM A STRAW-WEAVING COMMONER TO MY CURRENT POSITION, I REALLY AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE HEAVENS APPROVE OF ME.

YOU HAVE DEFEATED REBELS IN THE EAST AND WEST, BRINGING THE RICH LANDS OF THE YIZHOU AND HANZHONG UNDER ONE RULE. SURELY, THE HEAVENS HAVE GRANTED YOU THEIR DIVINE FAVOUR.

EXACTLY. AS SUCH, YOU WILL ONLY BE FOLLOWING THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IF YOU DECIDE TO ADOPT THE TITLE OF EMPEROR HERE AND NOW. ONCE YOU ARE THE EMPEROR, YOU WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND MORAL RIGHT TO SUBJECT ALL UNDER HEAVEN UNDER YOUR RULE.

WHAT!?

YOU ARE MISTAKEN, MY LORD.

I MUST HAVE MISHEARD YOU, KONGMING! I MAY BE OF IMPERIAL BLOOD BUT ARE YOU SAYING A SERVANT OF HAN SHOULD USURP THE IMPERIAL THRONE!?

THE ABLE MEN OF THIS REALM HAVE GATHERED UNDER YOUR BANNER WITH A SINGLE GOAL BECAUSE YOU ARE A RIGHTEOUS LORD WORTH SERVING EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES.

THE PRESENT IS A CHAOTIC TIME IN WHICH HEROES FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.

.....

BUT IF MY LORD IS TOO WARY OF WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU AND DITCH GREAT ASPIRATIONS FOR SMALL MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, YOUR RETAINERS WILL LOSE THEIR FAITH AND DESERT YOU. THAT IS THE COLD TRUTH OF THE TIMES WE LIVE IN...

A WEAK WILL ONLY TURNS AWAY THE HEARTS OF YOUR FOLLOWERS, SOONER OR LATER. THAT IS WHY YOU MUST MENTALLY RESOLVE YOURSELF, AS I SAID IN THE BEGINNING.

BUT TO BECOME THE EMPEROR IS... NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME.

SINCE MY LORD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED WITH MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD BE HESITANT AT TAKING THE TITLE OF EMPEROR SO SOON.

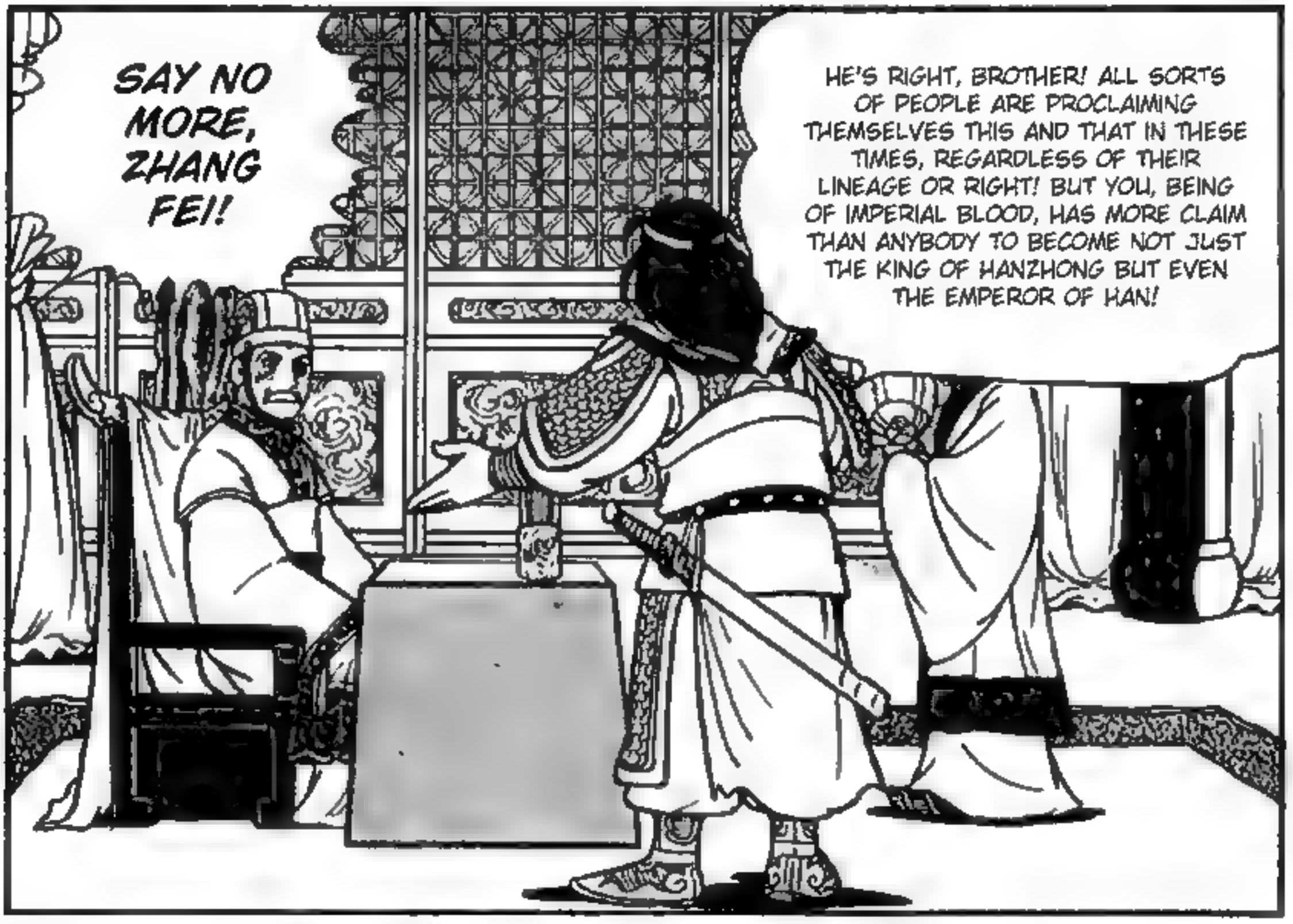
DO I HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

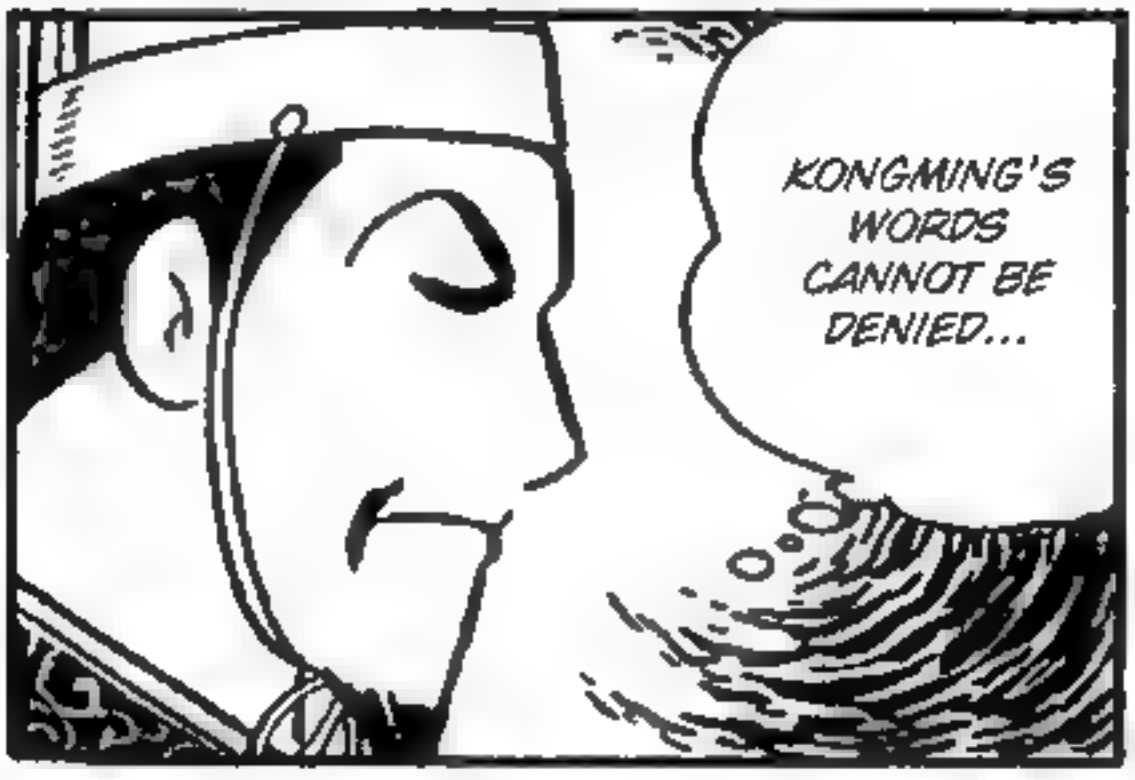
BUT EVEN THE TITLE OF KING IS NOT SOMETHING ONE CAN JUST APPROPRIATE FOR ONESELF. IT IS FOR THE IMPERIAL COURT TO CONFER.

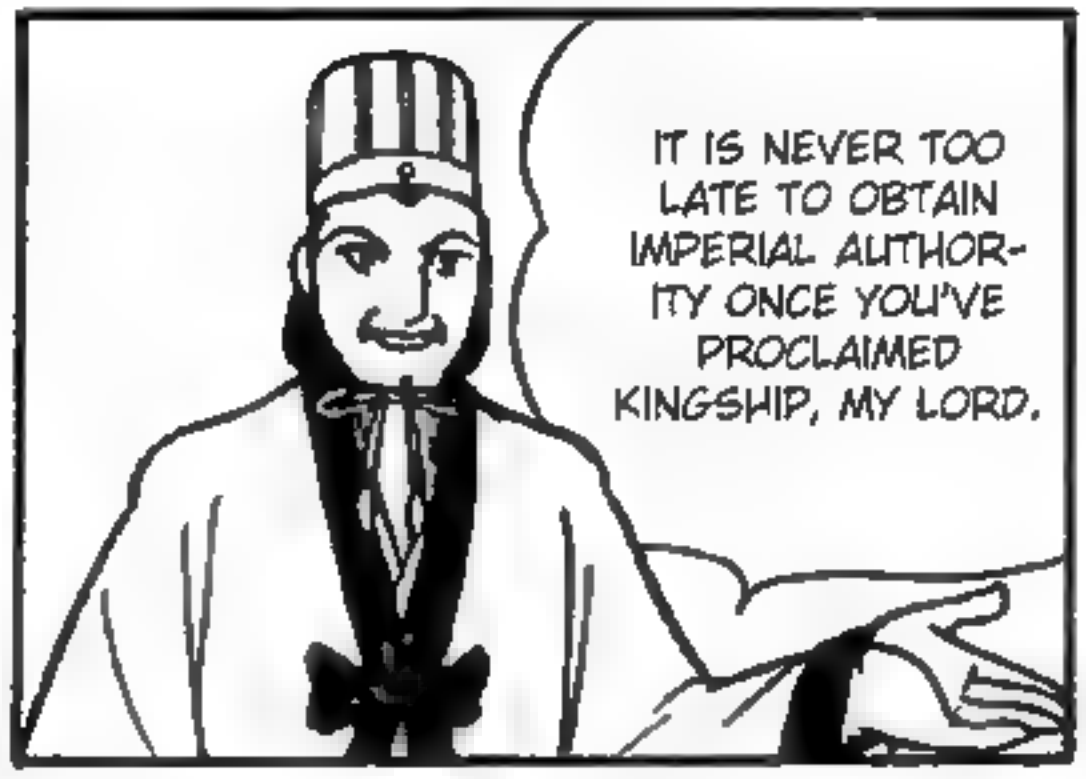
AND SO, LET US TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME BY PROCLAIMING YOU AS THE KING OF HANZHONG.

MN...

GREAT THINGS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY STICKING TO THE SMALL, COMMON ROAD IN TIMES OF CHAOS. PLEASE RECONSIDER, MY LORD.


SAY NO MORE, ZHANG FEI!
HE'S RIGHT, BROTHER! ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE ARE PROCLAIMING THEMSELVES THIS AND THAT IN THESE TIMES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LINEAGE OR RIGHT! BUT YOU, BEING OF IMPERIAL BLOOD, HAS MORE CLAIM THAN ANYBODY TO BECOME NOT JUST THE KING OF HANZHONG BUT EVEN THE EMPEROR OF HAN!


KONGMING'S WORDS CANNOT BE DENIED...

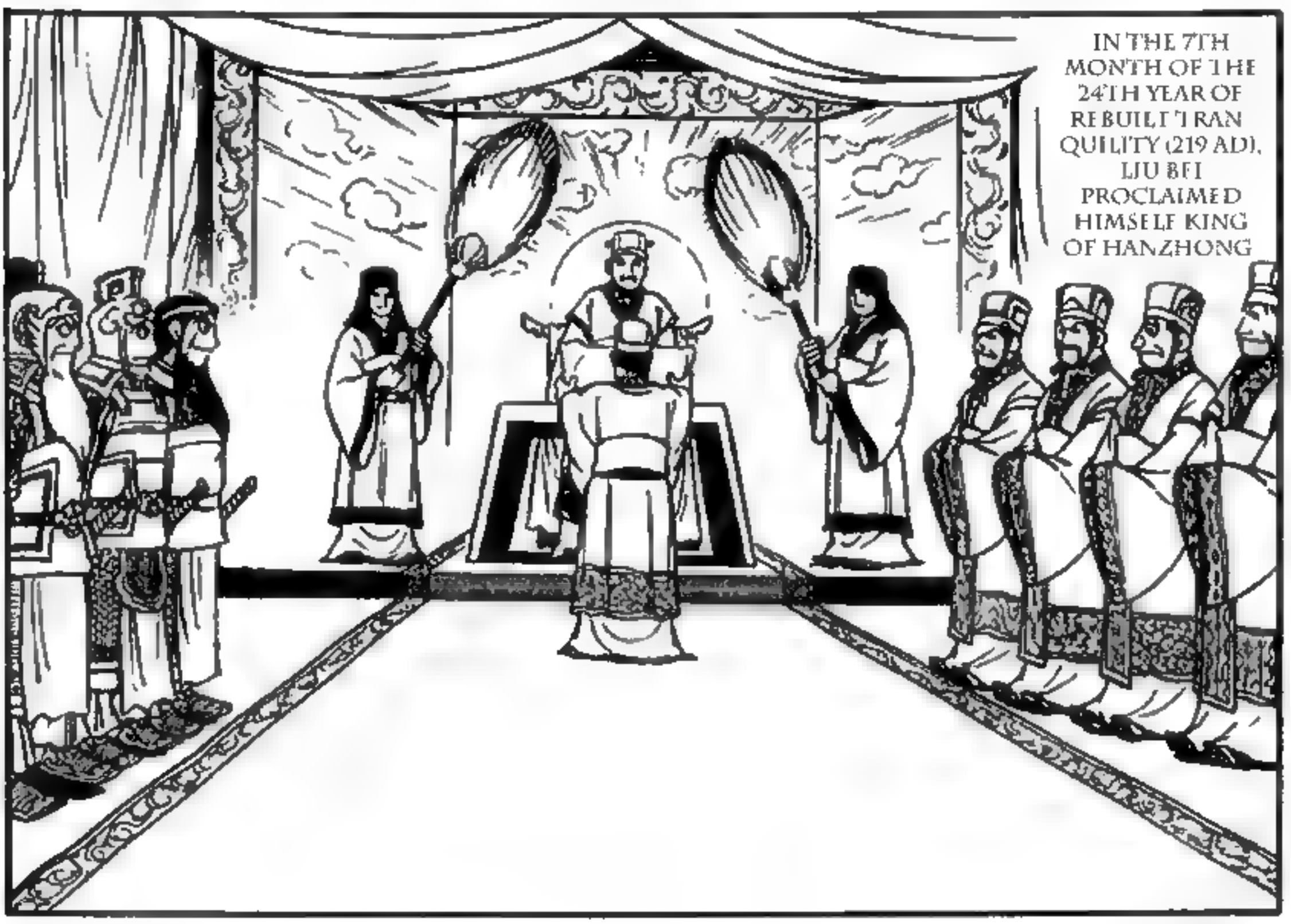

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO OBTAIN IMPERIAL AUTHORITY ONCE YOU'VE PROCLAIMED KINGSHIP, MY LORD.

VERY WELL, I SHALL PROCLAIM MYSELF KING OF HANZHONG.

AS YOU SAY, IT IS NOT MORAL RIGHT ALONE THAT COMPELS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW.

AN EXCELLENT DECISION.

OHH!


IN THE 7TH MONTH OF THE 24TH YEAR OF REBUILT TRAN QUILITY (219 AD), LIU BEI PROCLAIMED HIMSELF KING OF HANZHONG

PALACE AT YEJUN

YES, IT WAS SIGNED BY ZHUGE LIANG AND 120 OTHER OFFICERS OF SHU.

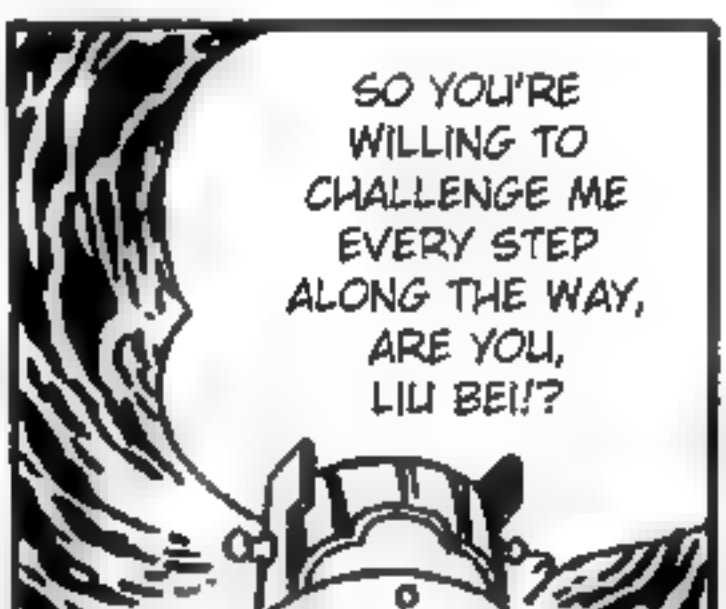
WHAT!? LIU BEI SENT A MEMORIAL TO THE IMPERIAL COURT, PROCLAIMING HIMSELF THE KING OF HANZHONG!?

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WAS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO SEND LIU BEI WITH A SEAL MARKED "HANZHONG KING GRAND MARSHALL."

AND HOW DID THE EMPEROR RESPOND?

NGHHH... A STRAW-WEAVING PEASANT CALLING HIMSELF THE KING OF HANZHONG!?

I WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS DISRESPECT! I MUST GO CRUSH THIS UPSTART KING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!


SO YOU'RE WILLING TO CHALLENGE ME EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY, ARE YOU, LIU BEI!?

WHAT!?

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU MUST NOT LET YOUR MOMENTARY ANGER LEAD TO THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS.

LIU BEI'S SHU IS A MIGHTY STATE ON THE RISE.

SIMA YI! ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT MY LEADING AN ARMY TO SHU WILL RESULT IN THE POINTLESS DEATHS OF MY TROOPS!?

THEN ARE YOU JUST TELLING ME TO TAKE HIS INSULTING PROCLAMATION LYING DOWN!?

ALTHOUGH I WILL NOT SAY YOU WILL LOSE EVEN IF YOU ORDERED A MILLION MEN TO MARCH AGAINST IT, I DO NOT THINK YOU WILL ACHIEVE A CLEAR VICTORY EITHER.

AFTER THEY'VE BEEN WEAKENED? BUT DID YOU NOT JUST SAY THEY WERE A MIGHTY RISING STATE?

NO, I MERELY ADVISE ATTACKING SHU ONLY AFTER THEY'VE BEEN WEAKENED.

THAT IS WHY WE MUST MOVE WU AGAINST SHU.

ALTHOUGH SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI HAVE TIED THEMSELVES THROUGH MARRIAGE, SUN QUAN SCHEMED TO RECALL HIS YOUNGER SISTER BACK TO WU, LEAVING SHU-WU RELATIONS HOSTILE.

AH, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ALREADY HAVE A PLAN FOR THAT SPEAK FREELY.

AHH!

HAVE WU FIGHT SHU, EH...?

SURELY SUN QUAN WILL FIND THE CHANCE TOO GOOD TO PASS UP.

NOW IF WE WERE TO PROMISE SUPPORT OF WU'S CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU BY DISTRACTING SHU FORCES WITH AN ATTACK ON HANZHONG...

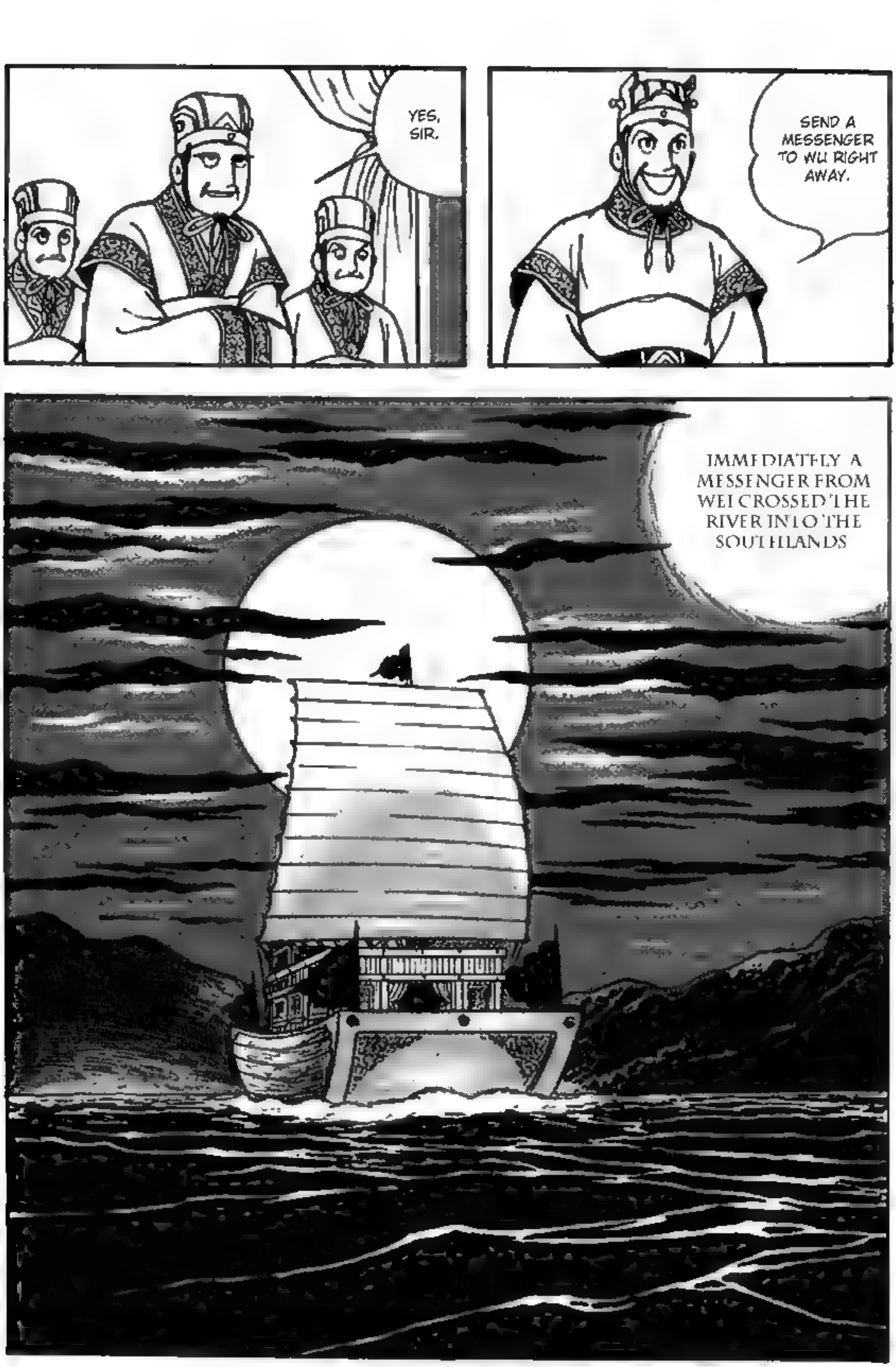
THIS IS EXACTLY WHEN YOU MUST STRIKE HANZHONG. AS THE ART OF WAR STATES, ATTACK ONLY WHEN YOU ARE ASSURED OF VICTORY...

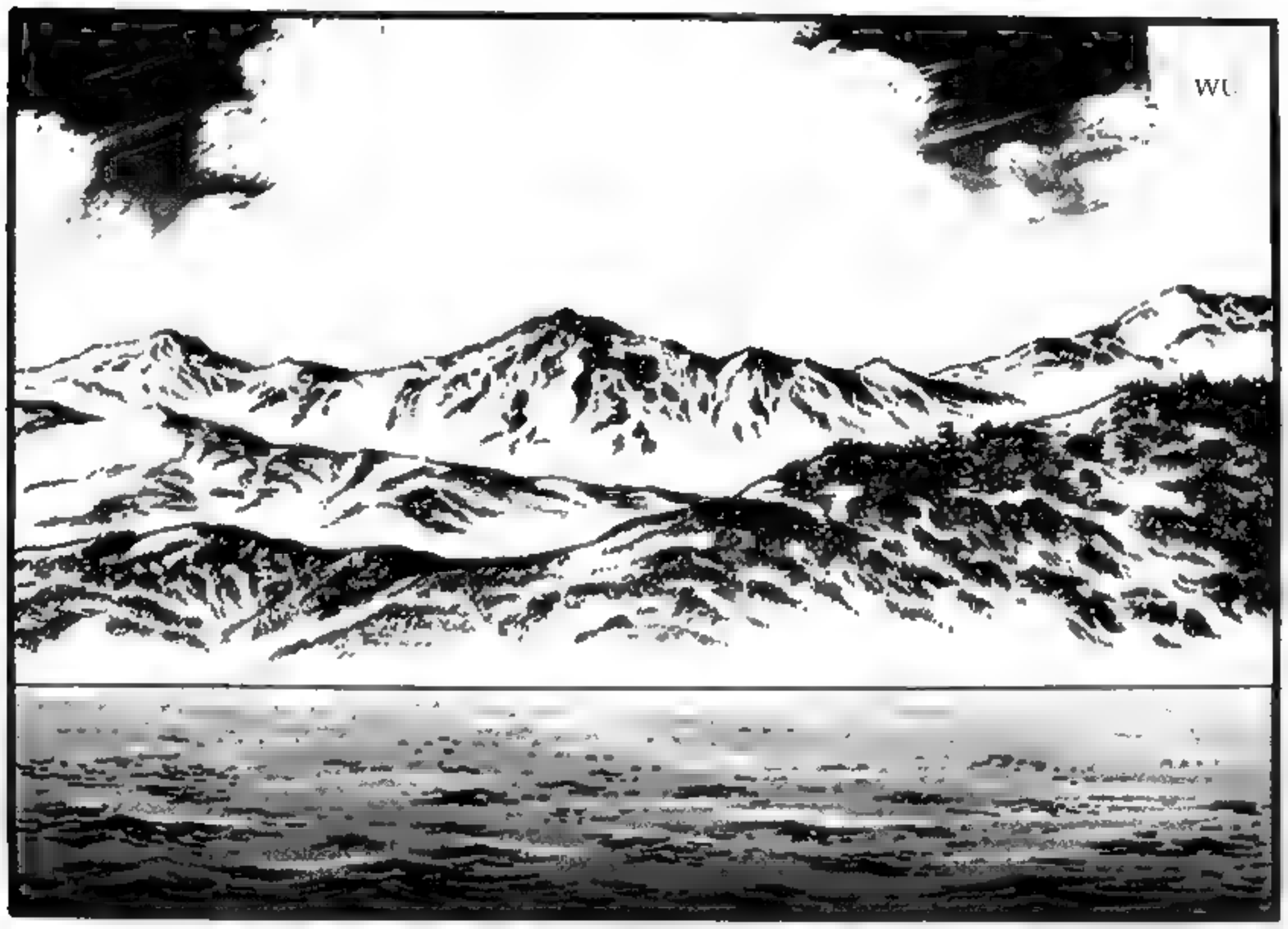
LOSING JINGZHOU WILL JEOPARDIZE HANZHONG'S SECURITY, AND LOSING HANZHONG WILL ENDANGER SHU'S CORE LANDS IN YIZHOU. LIU BEI WILL THUS NOT HESITATE IN SENDING TROOPS TO DEFEND JINGZHOU.

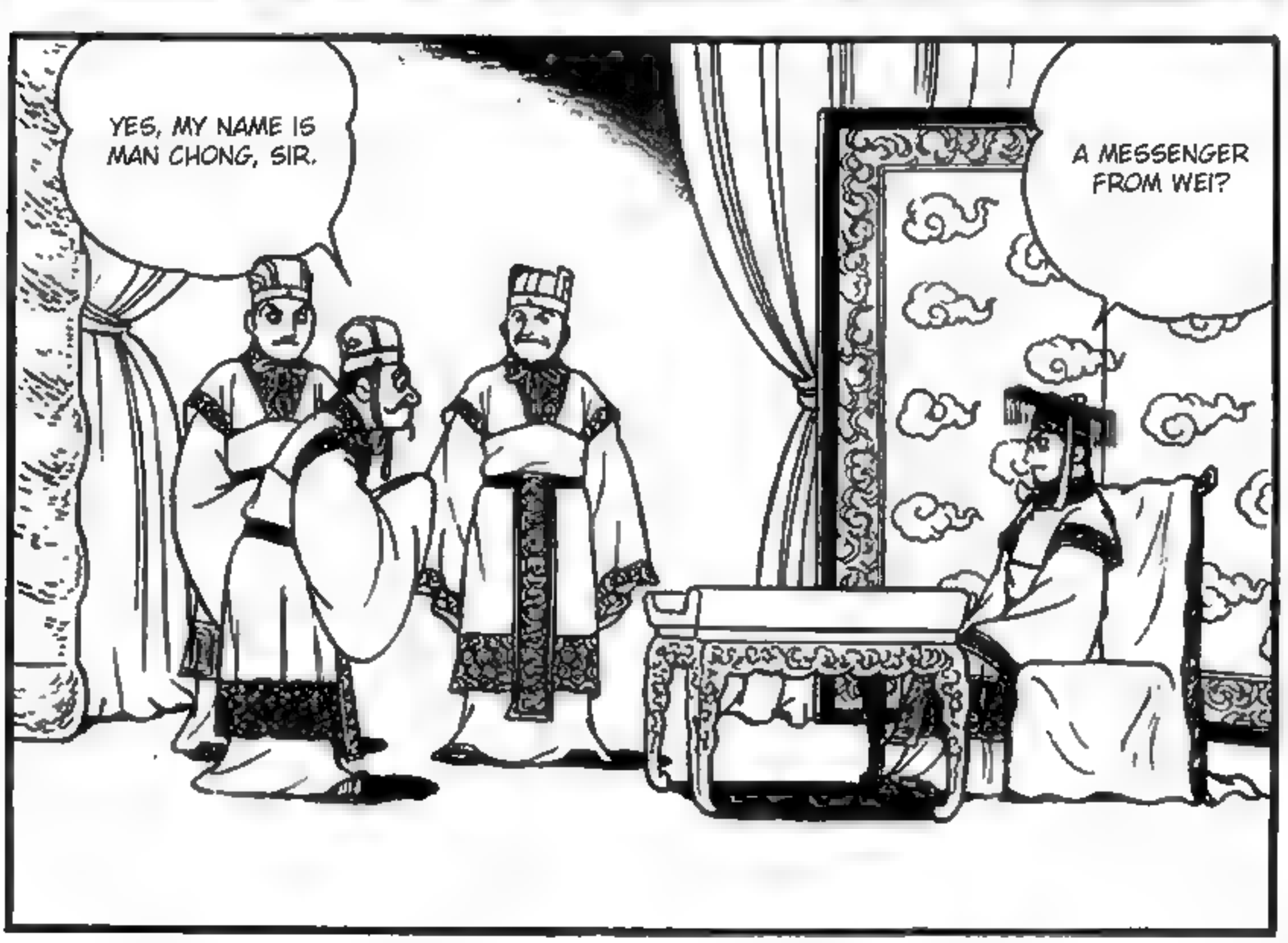
YOUR ARE AN EXCELLENT STRATEGIST INDEED.

YES, SIR.

SEND A MESSENGER TO WU RIGHT AWAY.


IMMEDIATELY A MESSENGER FROM WEI CROSSED THE RIVER INTO THE SOUTHLANDS




YES, MY NAME IS MAN CHONG, SIR.
A MESSENGER FROM WEI?

AS A RESULT, IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE ONE WHO HAS REAPED THE PROFITS IS NEITHER WEI NOR WU, BUT SHU, WHOSE RULER LIU BEI NOW PROCLAIMS HIMSELF KING OF HANZHONG.

THE KING OF WEI WISHES TO STATE HE HARBOURS NO REAL RESENTMENT TOWARDS WU AND THAT THE PAST CONFLICTS BETWEEN US WERE MERELY THE RESULT OF KONGMING'S MACHINATIONS.

STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

NATURALLY, HE PROMISES TO EQUALLY DIVIDE SHU'S LANDS, IF CONQUERED.

REALIZING THE FOLLY OF OUR PAST ENMITY, THE KING OF WEI OFFERS A NON-AGGRESSION PACT TO WU, SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE GOAL OF CONQUERING SHU.

THIS IS A LETTER WRITTEN PERSONALLY BY THE KING OF WEI.

AN INTERESTING PROMISE, BUT WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE OF CAO CAO'S SINCERITY?

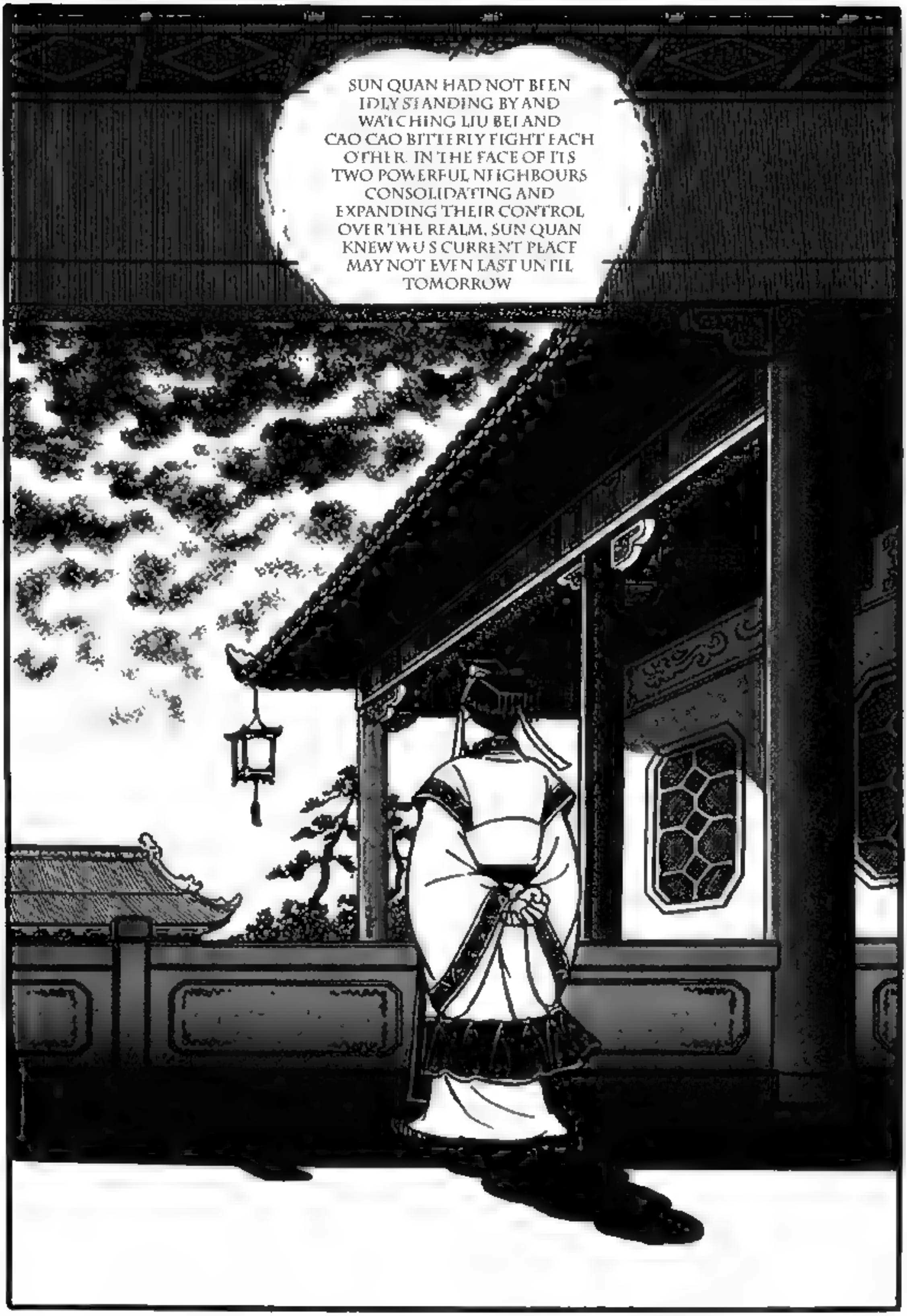
VERY WELL...
OF COURSE, HOWEVER MUCH TIME YOU REQUIRE.
BUT I MUST CONSULT MY RETAINERS ON A MATTER AS IMPORTANT AS THIS. GIVE ME TIME TO REACH A DECISION.
YES, SIR.
ESCORT THIS MAN TO A COMFORTABLE LODGING AND A LUXURIOUS MEAL SO THAT HE MAY RECOVER FROM THE FATIGUE OF LONG TRAVEL.

I'M NOT SURE YET, I MUST CONSULT WITH THE OTHERS.

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO THE OFFER, MY LORD?

YES, SIR.

GATHER ALL MY ADVISERS BEFORE ME.


SUN QUAN HAD NOT BEEN
IDLY STANDING BY AND
WATCHING LIU BEI AND
CAO CAO BITTERLY FIGHT EACH
OTHER. IN THE FACE OF ITS
TWO POWERFUL NEIGHBOURS
CONSOLIDATING AND
EXPANDING THEIR CONTROL
OVER THE REALM, SUN QUAN
KNEW WU'S CURRENT PEACE
MAY NOT EVEN LAST UNTIL
TOMORROW

NON-AGGRESSION PACT

THUS IN SHORT, WEI OFFERS NOT ONLY A NON-AGGRESSION PACT BUT ALSO TO JOIN HANDS WITH US IN CONQUERING SHU. HOW DO YOU MEN FEEL ABOUT THIS?
HE'S SIMPLY TRYING TO USE US TO GET RID OF THE NEW THORN TO HIS SIDE.
I AM AGAINST THIS. IT'S ONLY TOO CLEAR THAT CAO CAO HAS ASPIRATIONS TO CONTROL THE ENTIRE REALM, BUT SHU'S SUDDEN RISE TO POWER IS HINDERING HIM GREATLY.

FLATLY REJECTING THE OFFER MIGHT TURN WEI'S WRATH SOLELY UPON US, HOWEVER.

AGREED! WHY SHOULD WE WASTE OUR MEN AND HORSES FOR WEI'S BENEFIT!?

IT IS BEST TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH WEI.

YES, AND ONLY SHU WOULD BENEFIT IN THAT CASE.

A MESSENGER TO GUAN YU?

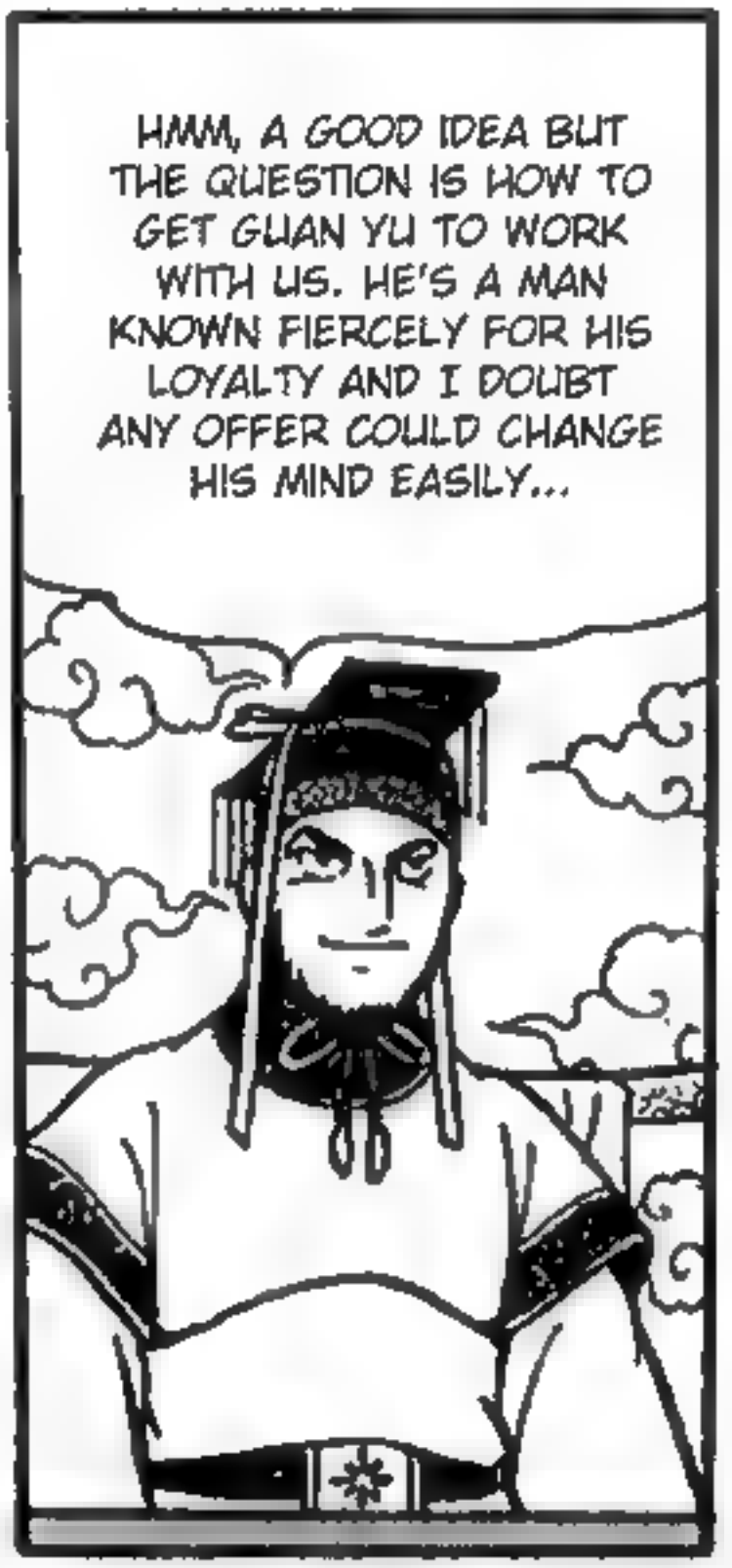
WHY DON'T WE SEND THE MESSENGER BACK TO WEI FOR NOW, WHILE WE SEND A MESSENGER OF OUR OWN TO GUAN YU?

HM...

YES, LET US ASK GUAN YU AT JINGZHOU IF HE WILL COOPERATE WITH US. IF HE AGREES, THEN WE NEED NOT FEAR CONFRONTATION WITH WEI.

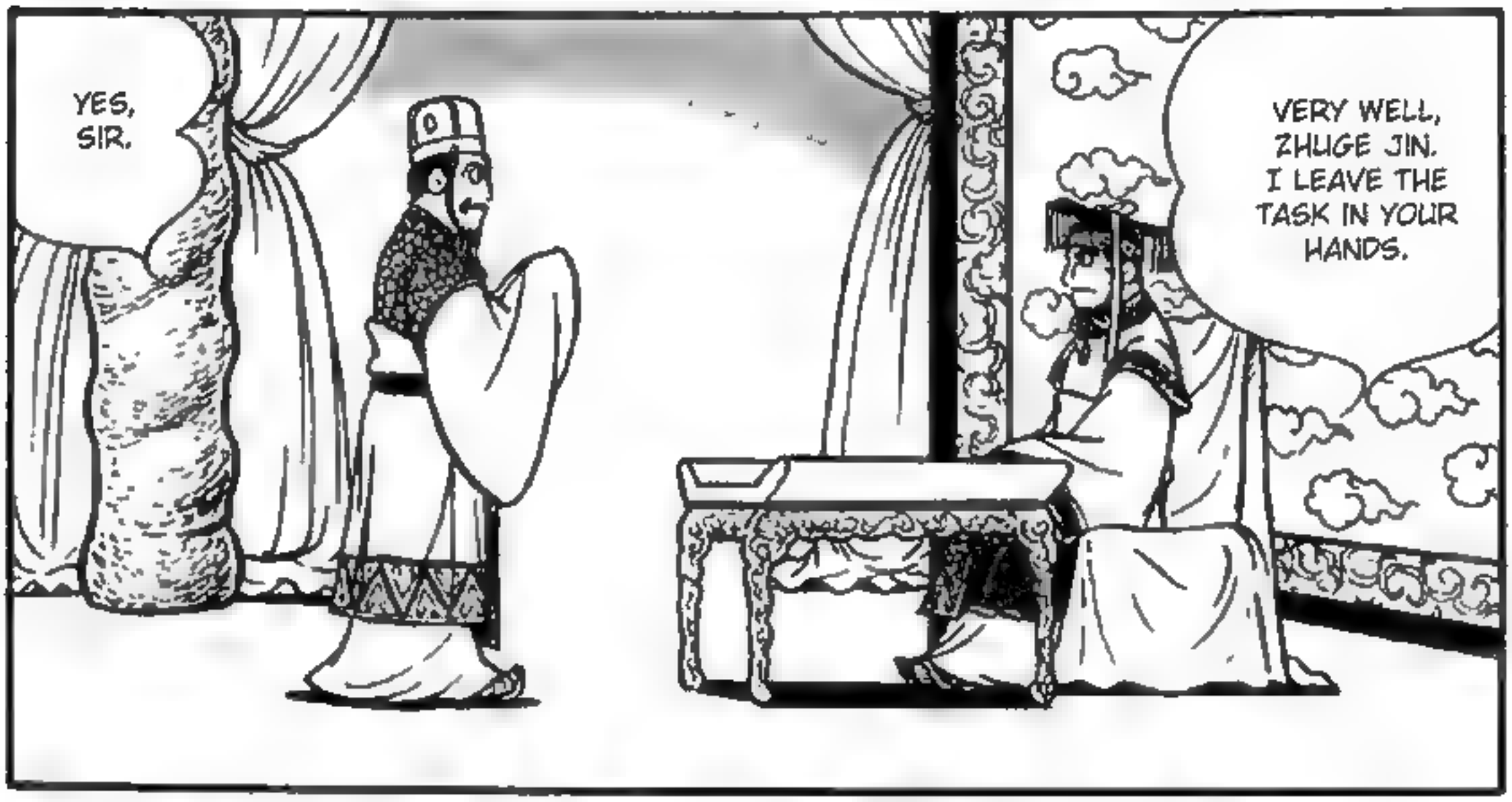
THEN WE SHOULD JOIN HANDS WITH WEI AND TAKE JINGZHOU FOR OURSELVES.
AND IF HE DISAGREES?

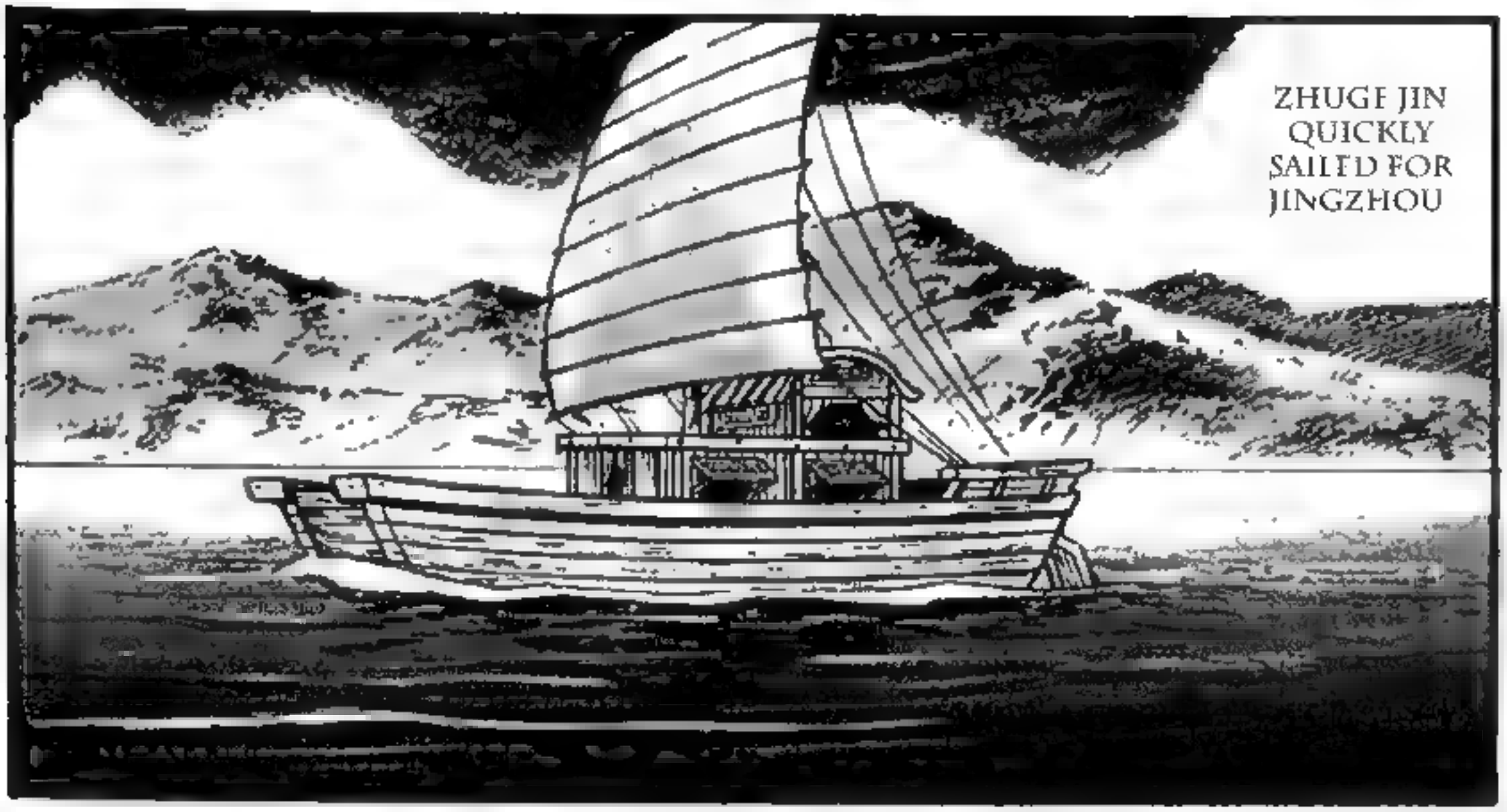
ANOTHER MARRIAGE? WITH WHOM?
I PROPOSE A MARRIAGE ALLIANCE.


HMM, A GOOD IDEA BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW TO GET GUAN YU TO WORK WITH US. HE'S A MAN KNOWN FIERCELY FOR HIS LOYALTY AND I DOUBT ANY OFFER COULD CHANGE HIS MIND EASILY...

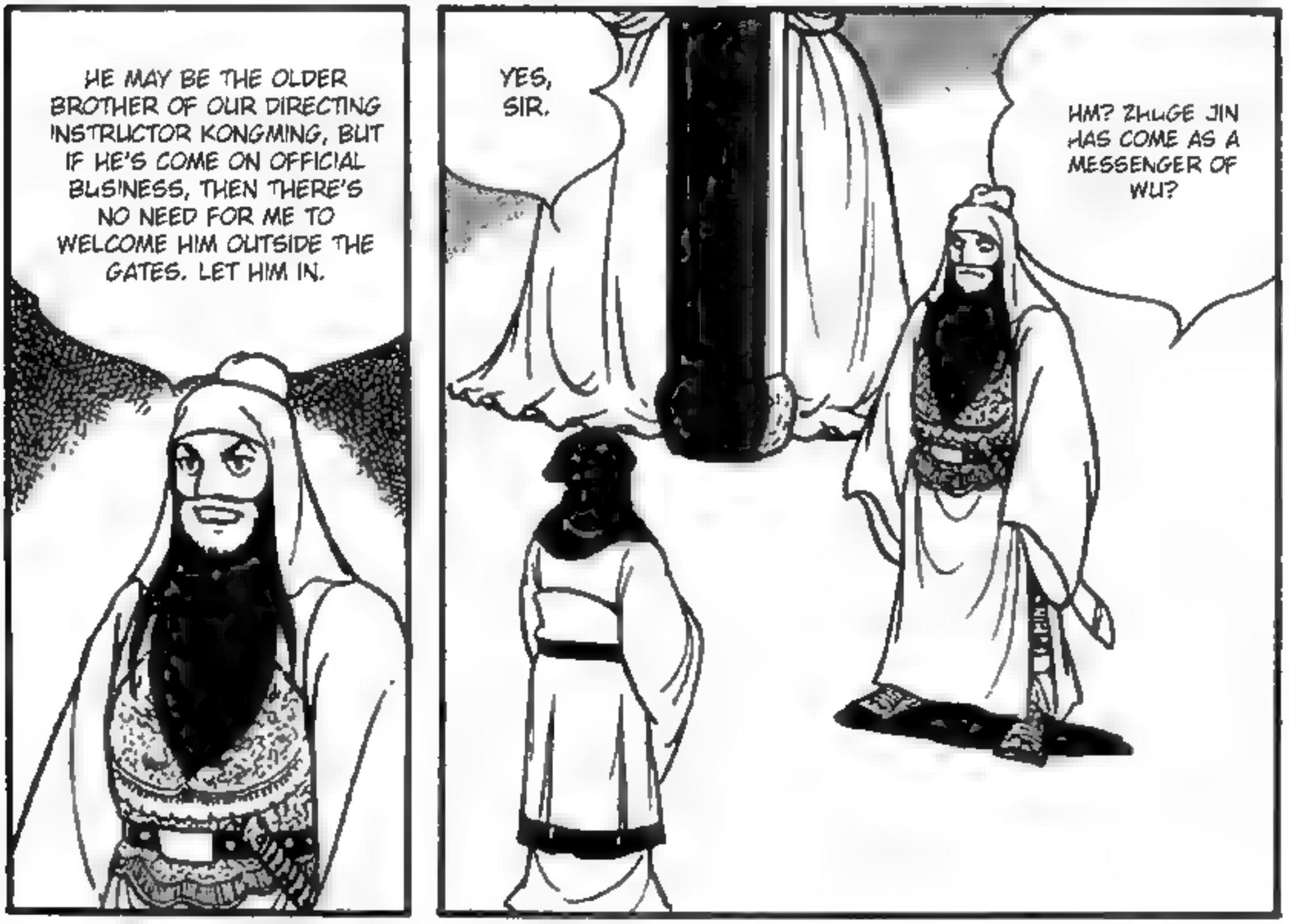
HMM... GUAN YU AS MY SON-IN-LAW?

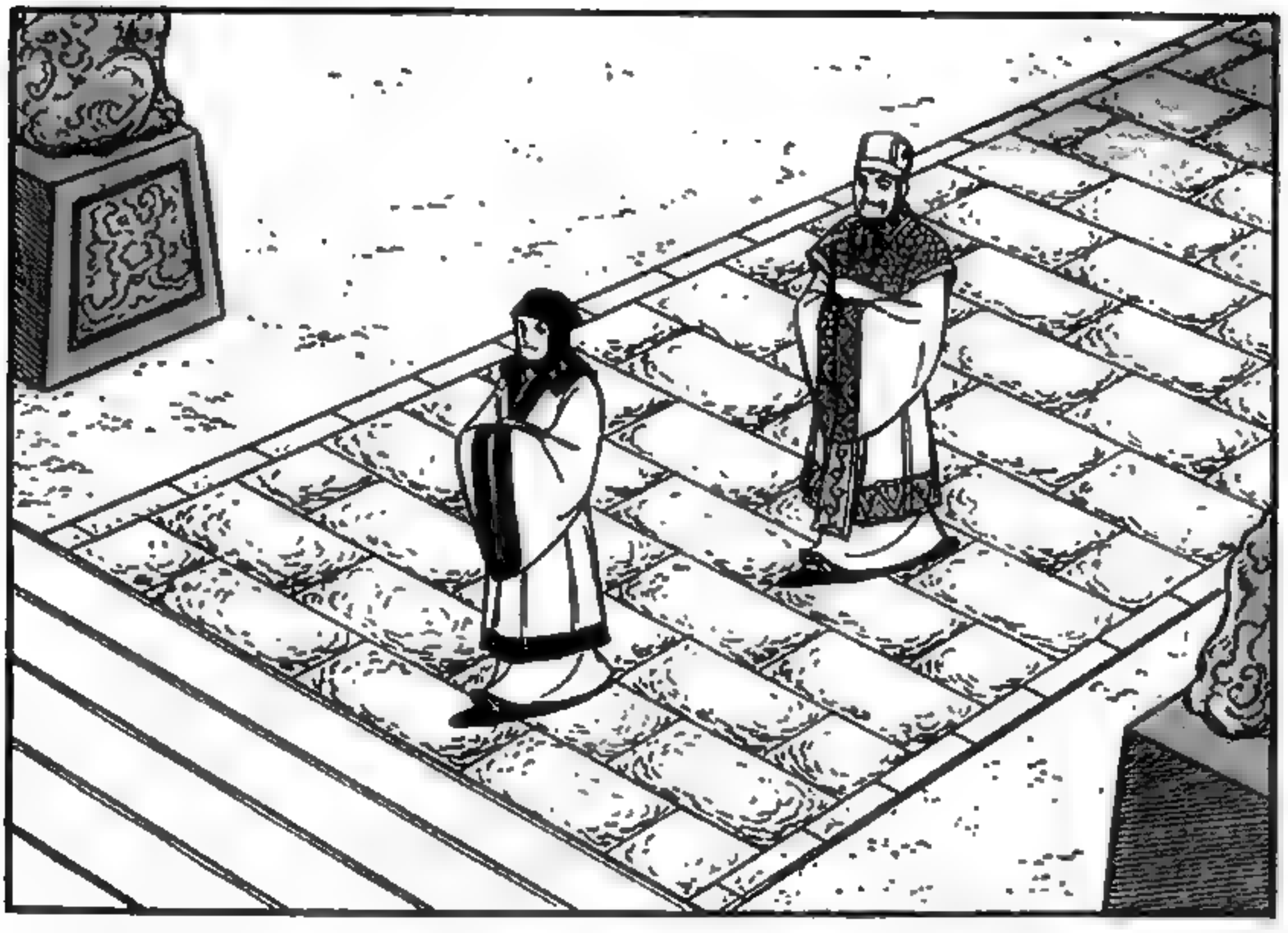
GUAN YU HAS TAKEN A WIFE SINCE COMING TO JINGZHOU, WHO HAS BORNE HIM A SON AND A DAUGHTER. I'M SURE HE'LL RESPOND FAVOURABLY TO A BETROTHAL BETWEEN HIS DAUGHTER AND YOUR HEIR.

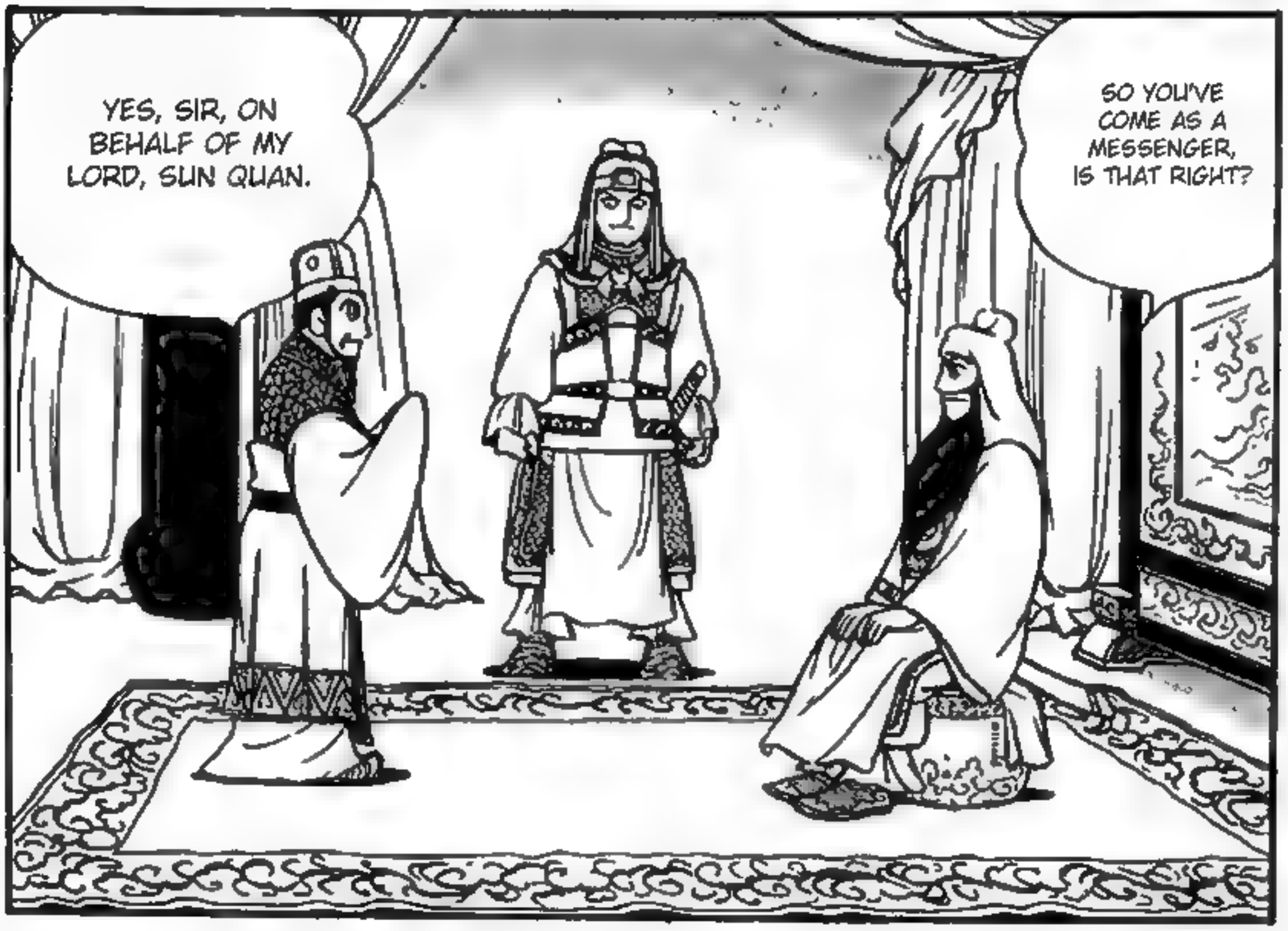

YES, SIR.
VERY WELL, ZHUGE JIN. I LEAVE THE TASK IN YOUR HANDS.


ZHUGE JIN QUICKLY SAILED FOR JINGZHOU

JINGZHOU


HE MAY BE THE OLDER BROTHER OF OUR DIRECTING INSTRUCTOR KONGMING, BUT IF HE'S COME ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO WELCOME HIM OUTSIDE THE GATES. LET HIM IN.
YES, SIR.
HM? ZHUGE JIN HAS COME AS A MESSENGER OF WU?




YES, SIR, ON BEHALF OF MY LORD, SUN QUAN.
SO YOU'VE COME AS A MESSENGER, IS THAT RIGHT?

HE WISHES TO PROPOSE A BETROTHAL.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

WHAT!? MY DAUGHTER AND SUN QUAN'S HEIR?

HEARING THAT YOU HAVE A YET UNMARRIED DAUGHTER, MY LORD PROPOSES A FUTURE MARRIAGE BETWEEN HER AND HIS HEIR. MIGHT SIR BE INTERESTED AT ALL IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT?

WHY MIGHT THAT BE?

HAHA, NO THANK YOU.

HOW CAN A TIGER'S DAUGHTER BE MARRIED OFF TO A DOG'S WHELP?
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO TIME TO DISCUSS SUCH FRIVOLOUS OFFERS. EXCUSE ME.

I'M AFRAID SO...

A TIGER'S DAUGHTER CANNOT BE MARRIED OFF TO A WHAT!?

SO BE IT! I SHALL TEACH HIM A LESSON!

THAT ARROGANT FOOL REALLY THINKS I CANNOT WREST JINGZHOU FROM HIS GRASP BY FORCE?

EXHAUSTING OUR MEN AND HORSES ALONE TO TAKE JINGZHOU IS EXACTLY WHAT CAO CAO DESIRES.

DO NOT RUSH OFF TO WAR, MY LORD.

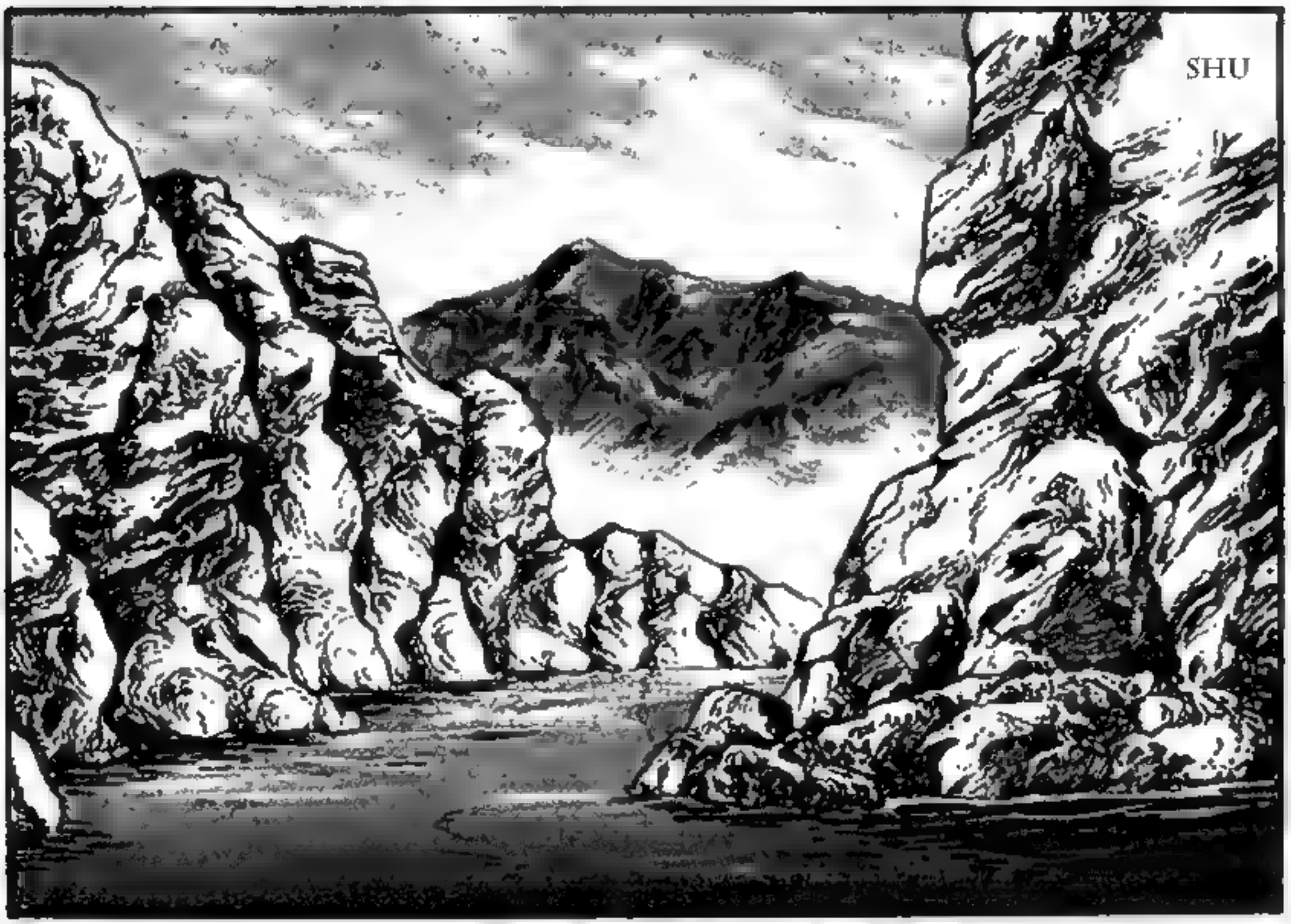
I SEE.

WE SHOULD SEND A MESSENGER TO WEI, ASKING THEM TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

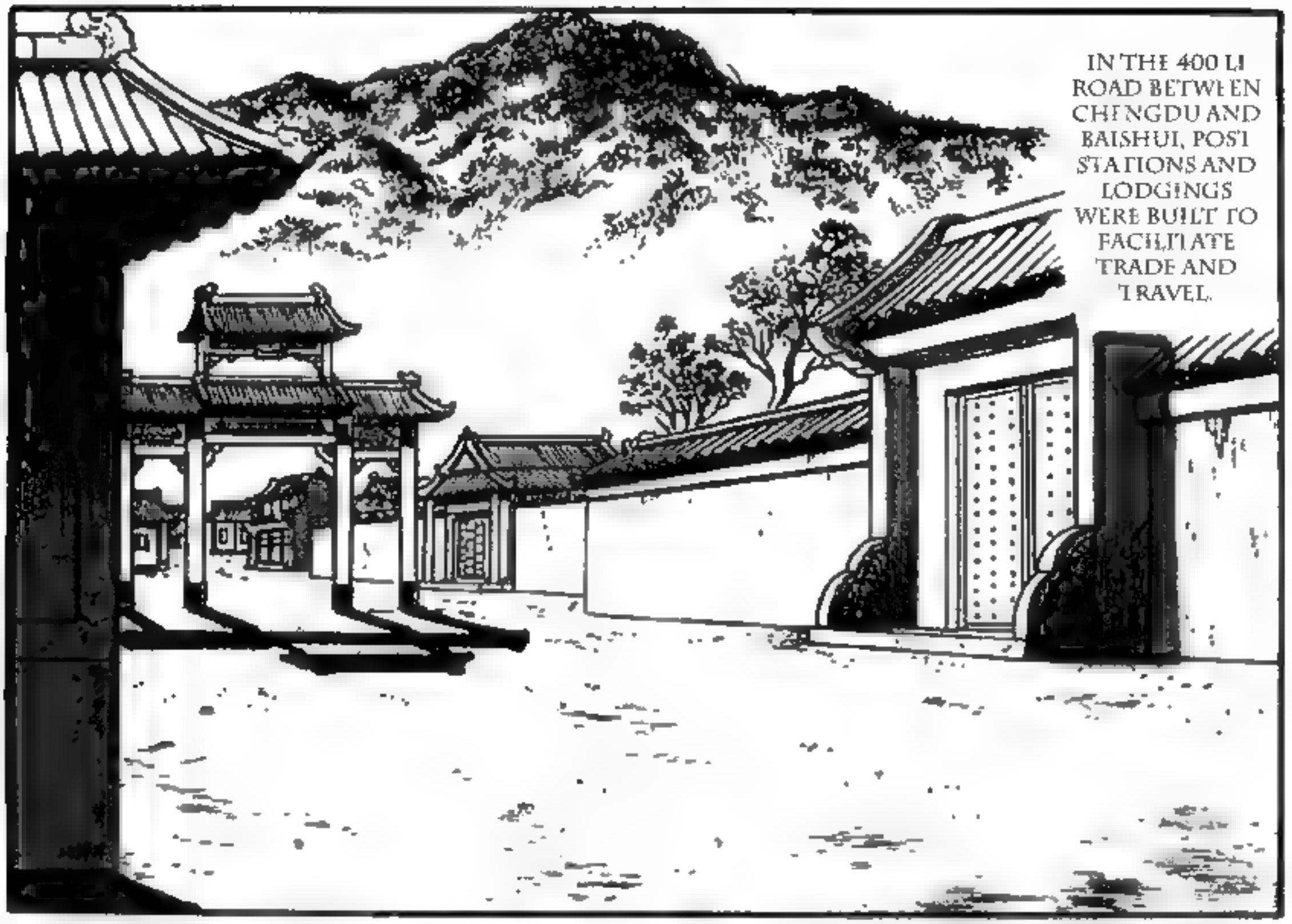
WHY DO YOU THINK CAO REN, STATIONED AT FANCHENG, SO CLOSE TO JINGZHOU, HAS YET TO MAKE A MOVE? IT IS BECAUSE WEI DOES NOT WISH TO RISK NEEDLESS CASUALTIES IN A COSTLY JINGZHOU CAMPAIGN.

YES, SIR.

VERY WELL. LET CAO CAO KNOW THAT WE WILL ONLY MOBILIZE OUR ARMY AGAINST SHU IF THEY MOVE THEIR ARMY FIRST.


SHU

MEANWHILE, LIU BEI HAD BEEN BUSY ATTENDING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS NEW LANDS.


IN THE 400 LI ROAD BETWEEN CHENGDU AND BAISHUI, POST STATIONS AND LODGINGS WERE BUILT TO FACILITATE TRADE AND TRAVEL.

GRANARIES AND ARMOURIES WERE ALSO RESTOCKED IN PREPARATION FOR WEI AGGRESSION

IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT A SPY REPORTED BACK TO CHENGDU

YES, BOTH SIDES ARE QUICKLY MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

WHAT!? WEI AND WU HAVE JOINED HANDS AND ARE PLOTTING TO ATTACK JINGZHOU?

KONGMING, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HMM... IF JINGZHOU FALLS, THEN HANZHONG IS AT RISK. AND IF HANZHONG FALLS, THEN CHENGDU AND THE REST OF SHU LANDS ARE AT RISK.

WU DISTRUSTS WEI AND IS NOT LACKING IN TALENTED ADVISERS, WHO WILL NO DOUBT URGE WEI TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BEFORE MOVING WU'S FORCES.

AND WHY IS THAT?

WEI MAY HAVE *JOINED HANDS* WITH WU, BUT THIS IS NO COMBINED OPERATION.

I EXPECTED CAO CAO TO RESPOND LIKE THIS.

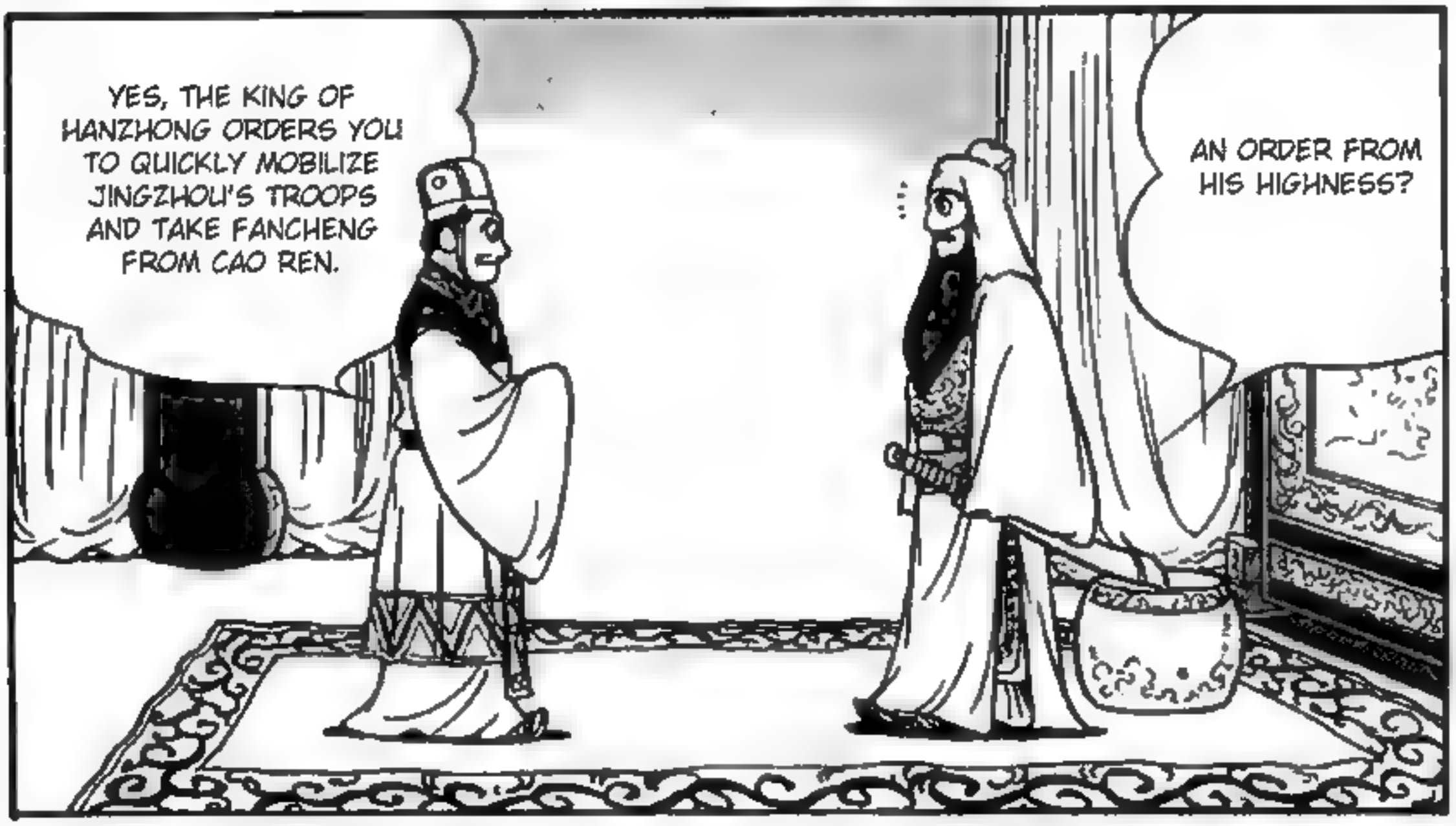
HMM...

THUS, THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS NOT TO LET WEI MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BUT FOR US TO BRING THE ATTACK TO THEM AT FANCHENG.

VERY WELL, I SHALL GIVE THE ORDER TO GUAN YU.

IF GUAN YU CAN CAPTURE FANCHENG, THE SUDDEN SETBACK WILL DAMPEN THE ARDOUR OF BOTH SIDES FOR WAR, AND CAUSE THEIR NEW "PARTNERSHIP" TO COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF DUE TO THEIR MUTUAL DISTRUST.

JINGZHOU


YES, THE KING OF HANZHONG ORDERS YOU TO QUICKLY MOBILIZE JINGZHOU'S TROOPS AND TAKE FANCHENG FROM CAO REN.
AN ORDER FROM HIS HIGHNESS?

IN ADDITION, THE KING HAS GRANTED YOU A NEW TITLE.

UNDERSTOOD. I'LL MOVE RIGHT AWAY.

YES, A TITLE KNOWN AS THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND HE HAS APPPOINTED YOU AS ITS LEADING MEMBER.

A NEW TITLE?

ZHANG FEI, ZHAO ZILONG, MA CHAO, AND HUANG ZHONG.

THE LEADING MEMBER OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS? WHO ARE THE OTHER FOUR?

ZHANG FEI IS MY SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER AND ZHAO ZILONG IS A LOYAL GENERAL WHO'S SERVED HIS HIGHNESS FOR MANY YEARS. I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS WITH THEM.

WHAT!

I HAVE NO USE FOR SUCH AN INSULTING TITLE!

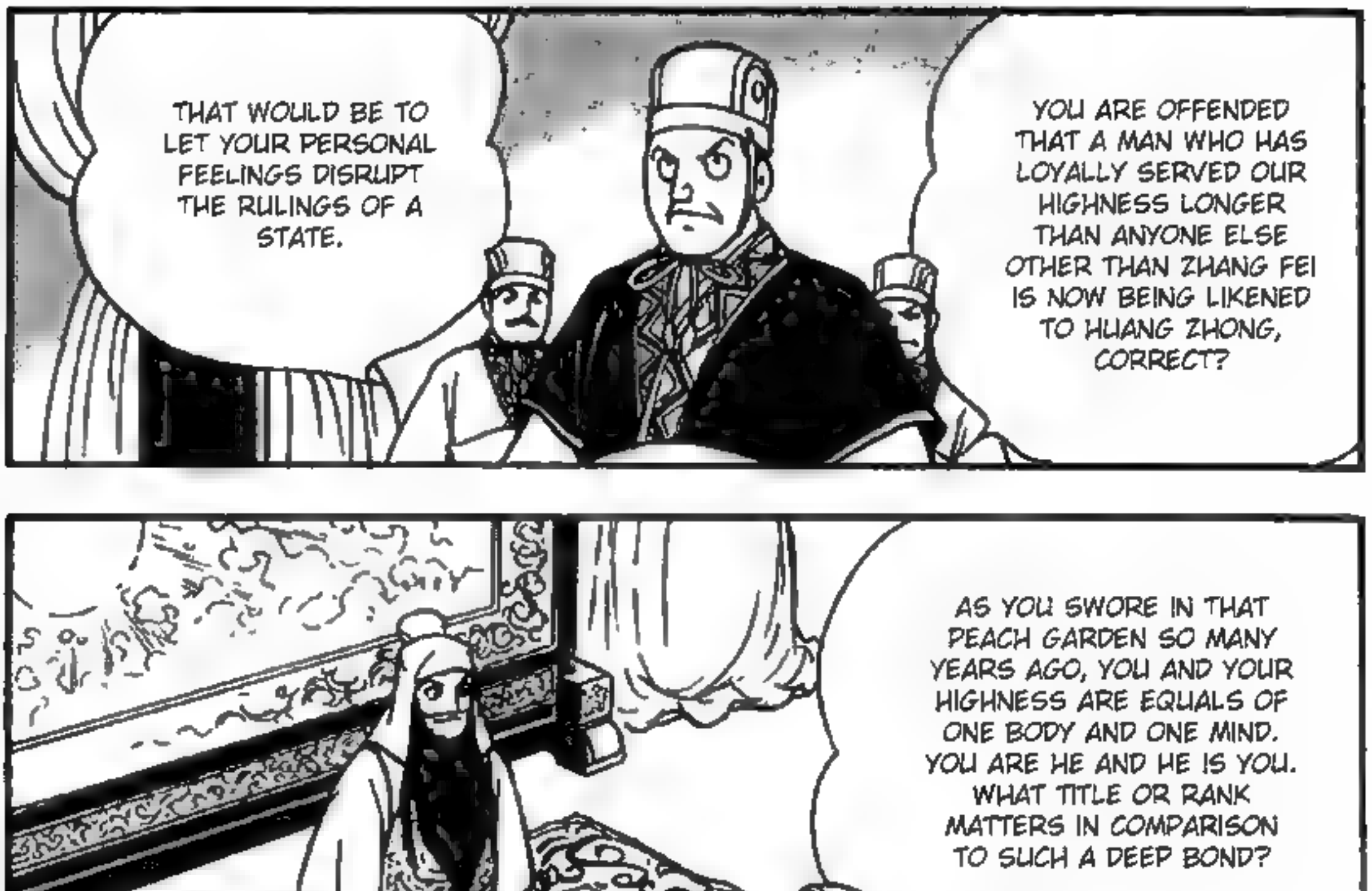
BUT MA CHAO ONLY DECIDED TO JOIN US SINCE HE WAS EXILED AND HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, WHILE HUANG ZHONG IS JUST AN OLD MAN! AND YET THOSE TWO ARE ON THE SAME RANK AS I!?

SURELY YOU DID NOT SWEAR AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD IN THAT PEACH GARDEN SO MANY YEARS AGO BECAUSE YOU DESIRED LOFTY TITLES AND RANKS.

I'M WHAT!?

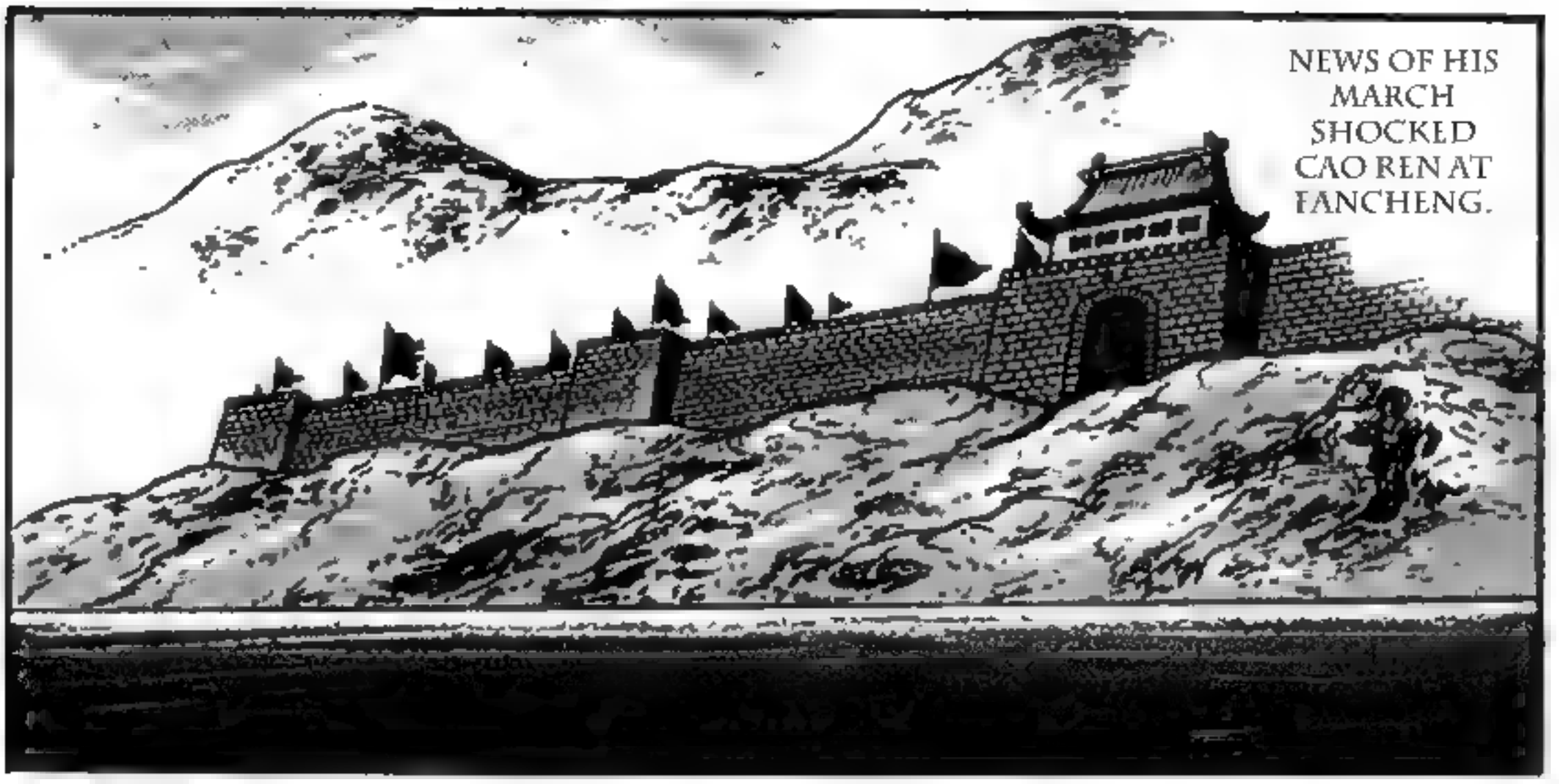
YOU ARE GRAVELY MISTAKEN, SIR.

THIS NEW TITLE IS MERELY A NEW POSITION INTENDED TO FACILITATE THE ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENSE OF HIS HIGHNESS' NEW DOMAINS. IT DOES NOT, NOR DOES IT TRY, TO DEPICT THE DEGREE OF SIR'S LOYALTY AND WORTH TO HIS HIGHNESS.


THAT WOULD BE TO LET YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS DISRUPT THE RULINGS OF A STATE.
YOU ARE OFFENDED THAT A MAN WHO HAS LOYALLY SERVED OUR HIGHNESS LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE OTHER THAN ZHANG FEI IS NOW BEING LIKENED TO HUANG ZHONG, CORRECT?
AS YOU SWORE IN THAT PEACH GARDEN SO MANY YEARS AGO, YOU AND YOUR HIGHNESS ARE EQUALS OF ONE BODY AND ONE MIND. YOU ARE HE AND HE IS YOU. WHAT TITLE OR RANK MATTERS IN COMPARISON TO SUCH A DEEP BOND?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WISDOM, FEI SHI. I ALMOST LET MY PETTY FEELINGS GET THE BETTER OF ME. PLEASE FORGIVE MY IMPUDENCE EARLIER.
I DID IT TO HELP MY BROTHER IN RESTORING PEACE TO THE REALM.
YOUR WORDS RING TRUE . I DID INDEED NOT SWEAR THAT OATH BECAUSE I WANTED ANY LOFTY TITLE OR MATERIAL GAINS.

SMOKE BEACONS


NEWS OF HIS MARCH SHOCKED CAO REN AT FANCHENG.

AS HE HAD BEEN BUSY DISCUSSING WITH HIS OFFICERS ON THE BEST WAY TO TAKE JINGZHOU, THE LAST THING HE EXPECTED WAS TO BE ATTACKED HIMSELF

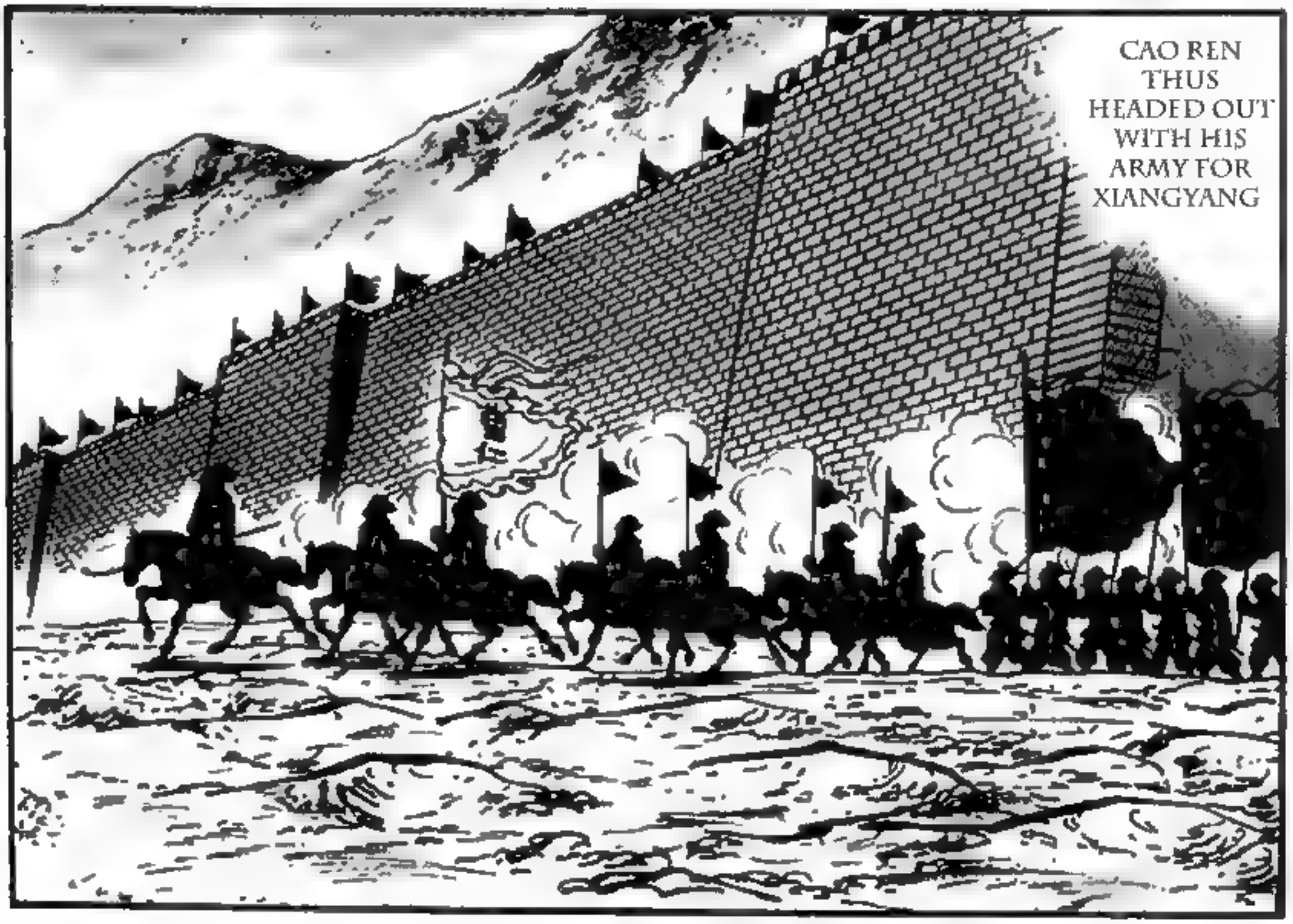
HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD THE PROVERB, "AS SOIL IS PUT OUT TO DAMN THE FLOODING WATER, TROOPS MUST BE MARCHED FORTH TO STOP AN ENEMY ARMY FROM STORMING IN."

GUAN YU IS A RARE BREED WITH BOTH BRAWNS AND BRAINS. I SAY WE SHUT THE GATES AND DO OUR BEST TO HOLD OUT BEHIND OUR WALLS.

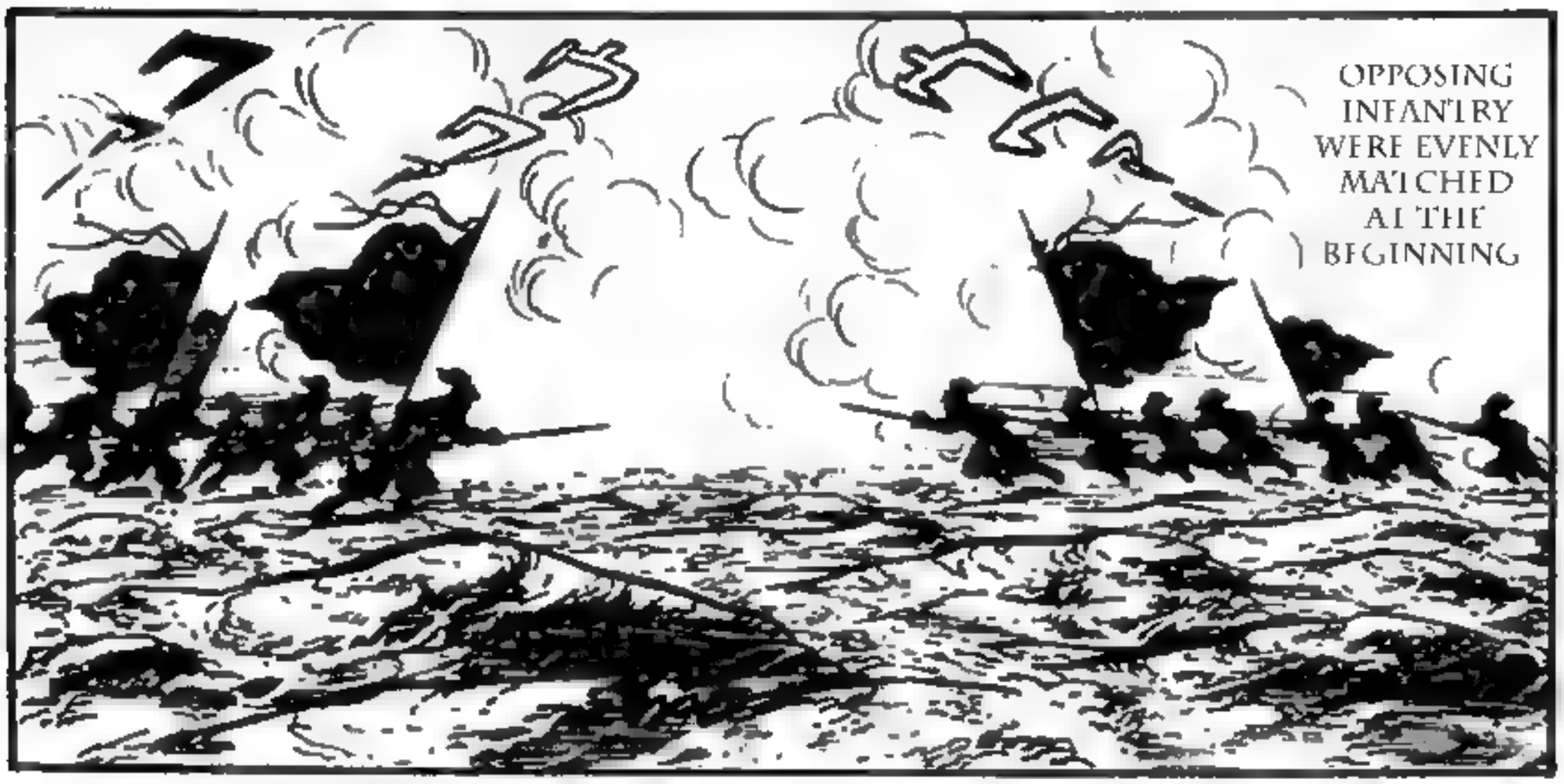
HMM...
THE ENEMIES WILL MARCH A LONG WAY TO GET HERE. WE MUST EXPLOIT THEIR TEMPORARY FATIGUE BY STRIKING FIRST.

MEANWHILE, XIAHOU CUN AND I WILL MEET THE ENEMY ARMY.

MAN CHONG, YOU STAY HERE AND DEFEND THE CITY.


CAO REN THUS HEADED OUT WITH HIS ARMY FOR XIANGYANG

THE TWO ARMIES FACED OFF IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF XIANGYANG
曲
曲
曲
仁


OPPOSING INFANTRY WERE EVENLY MATCHED AT THE BEGINNING

HOWEVER, SHU'S VANGUARD LED BY LIAO HUA BEGAN A FEIGNED RETREAT
WHICH WAS FOLLOWED UP BY THE COLLAPSE AND RETREAT OF GUAN PING'S FORCES
SENSING A CHANCE, CAO REN ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO PURSUE DEEPLY

ドドド

AHH!

GUAN YU!

CURSES! HE'S CUT OFF OUR PATH OF RETREAT! TURN AROUND!

CAO REN! DON'T FALL OFF YOUR HORSE BEFORE MY BLADE CAN REACH YOU!

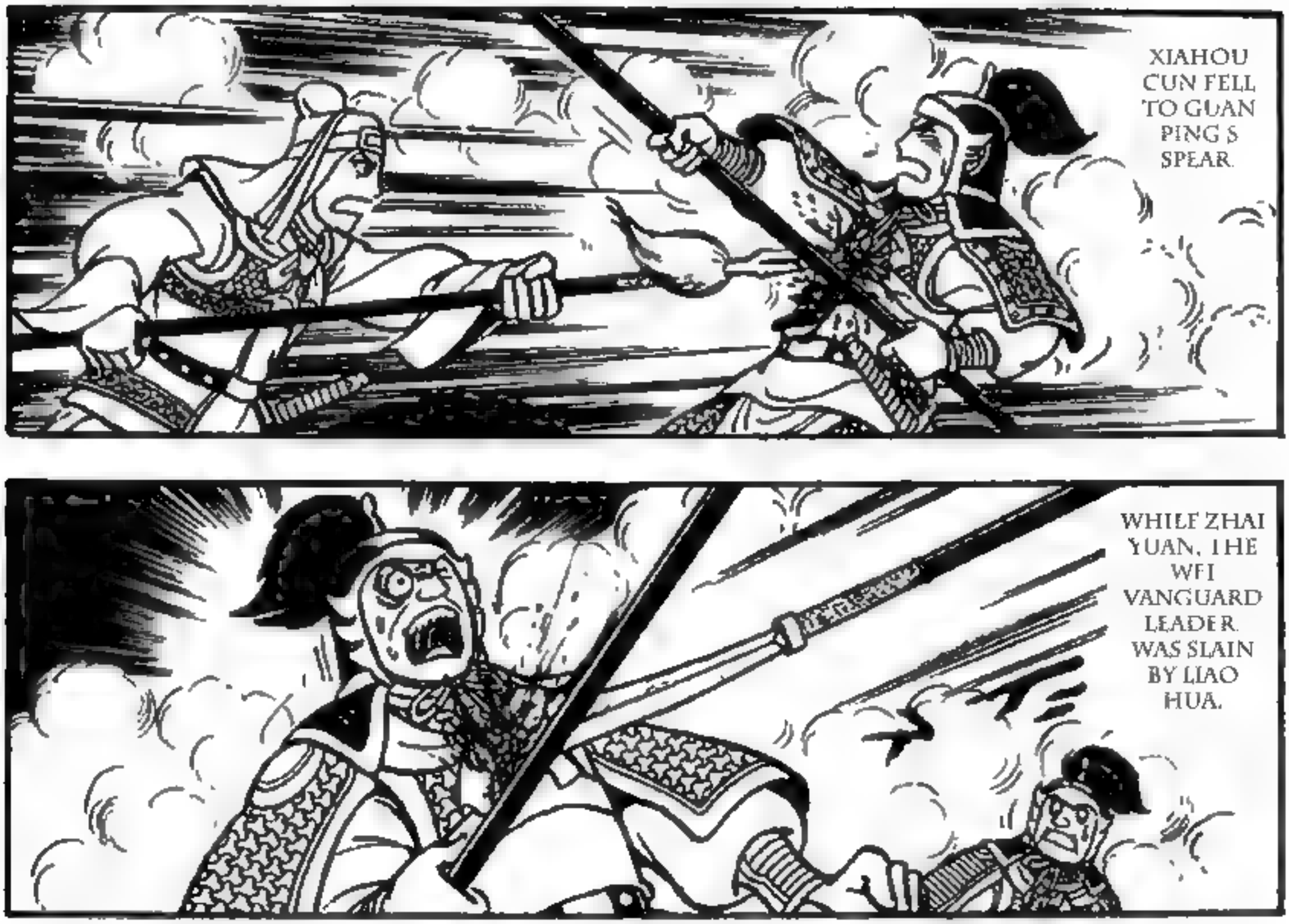
IT'S GUAN YU! RUN!

OH GOD...

THAT'S ENOUGH RUNNING AWAY! IT'S TIME TO SURROUND THEM!

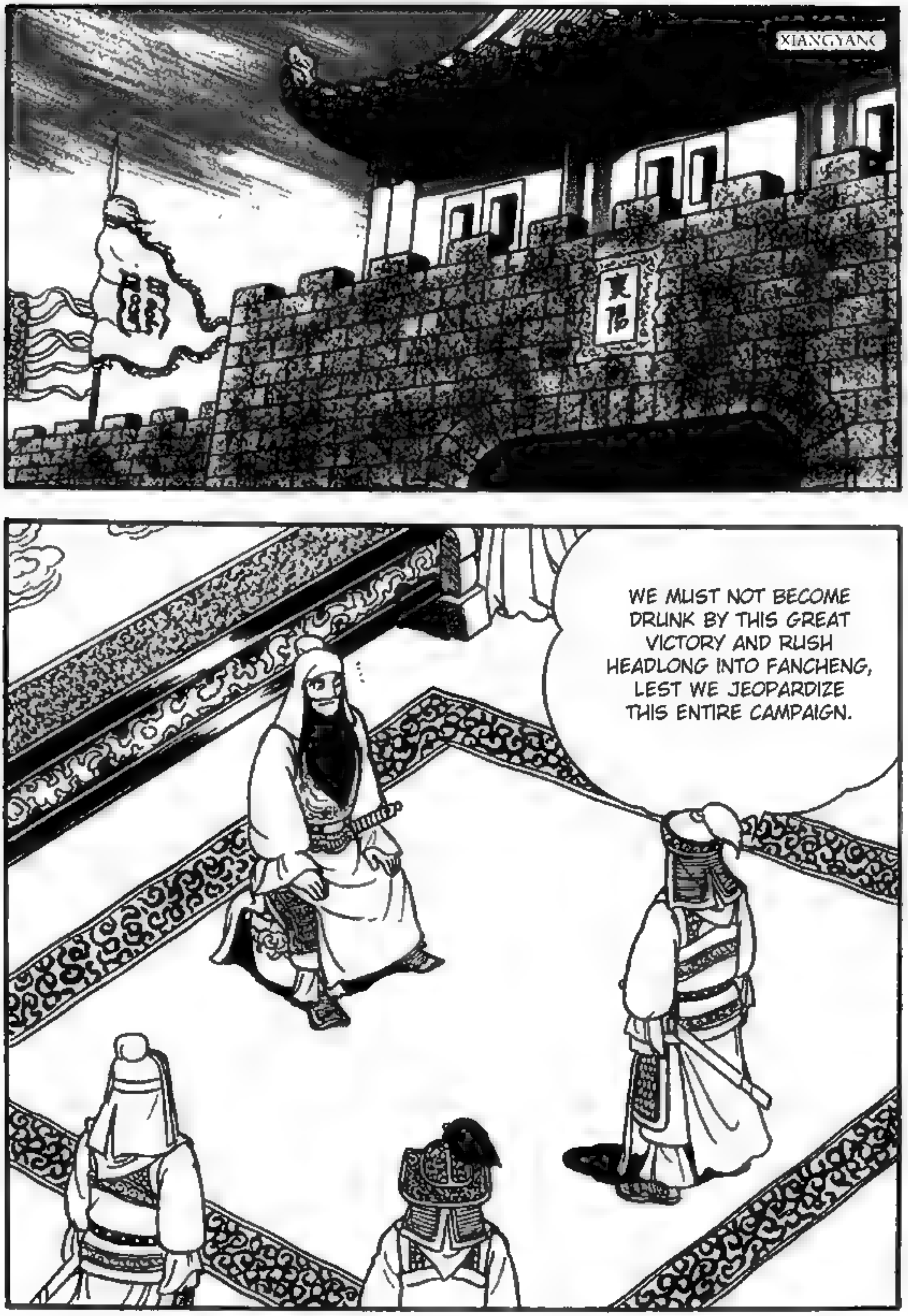
THAT'S THE SIGNAL.

CHAOS AND FEAR SET IN AS THE WEI TROOPS WERE HIT FROM THE FRONT AND REAR


XIAHOU CUN FELL TO GUAN PING'S SPEAR.
WHILE ZHAI YUAN, THE WEI VANGUARD LEADER, WAS SLAIN BY LIAO HUA.
曹
THE PANICKED WEI SOLDIERS SCATTERED OFF INTO EVERY DIRECTION

CAO REN HAD NO CHOICE TO ABANDON XIANGYANG AND WITHDRAW TO FANCHENG

GUAN YU TRIUMPHANTLY ENTERED XIANGYANG
關


XIANGYANG
WE MUST NOT BECOME DRUNK BY THIS GREAT VICTORY AND RUSH HEADLONG INTO FANCHENG, LEST WE JEOPARDIZE THIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN.

YES, SIR. WU'S FAMED GENERAL LU MENG IS STATIONED AT LUKOU WITH AN ARMY. IF HE WERE TO ATTACK JINGZHOU WHILE WE ATTACK FANCHENG, THEN WE WILL SURELY LOSE JINGZHOU.

YOU'RE REFERRING TO WU, YES?

IS THERE A *GOOD* WAY TO QUICKLY GAUGE LU MENG'S MOVEMENTS?

YES... LU MENG'S CAPABILITY CANNOT BE IGNORED...

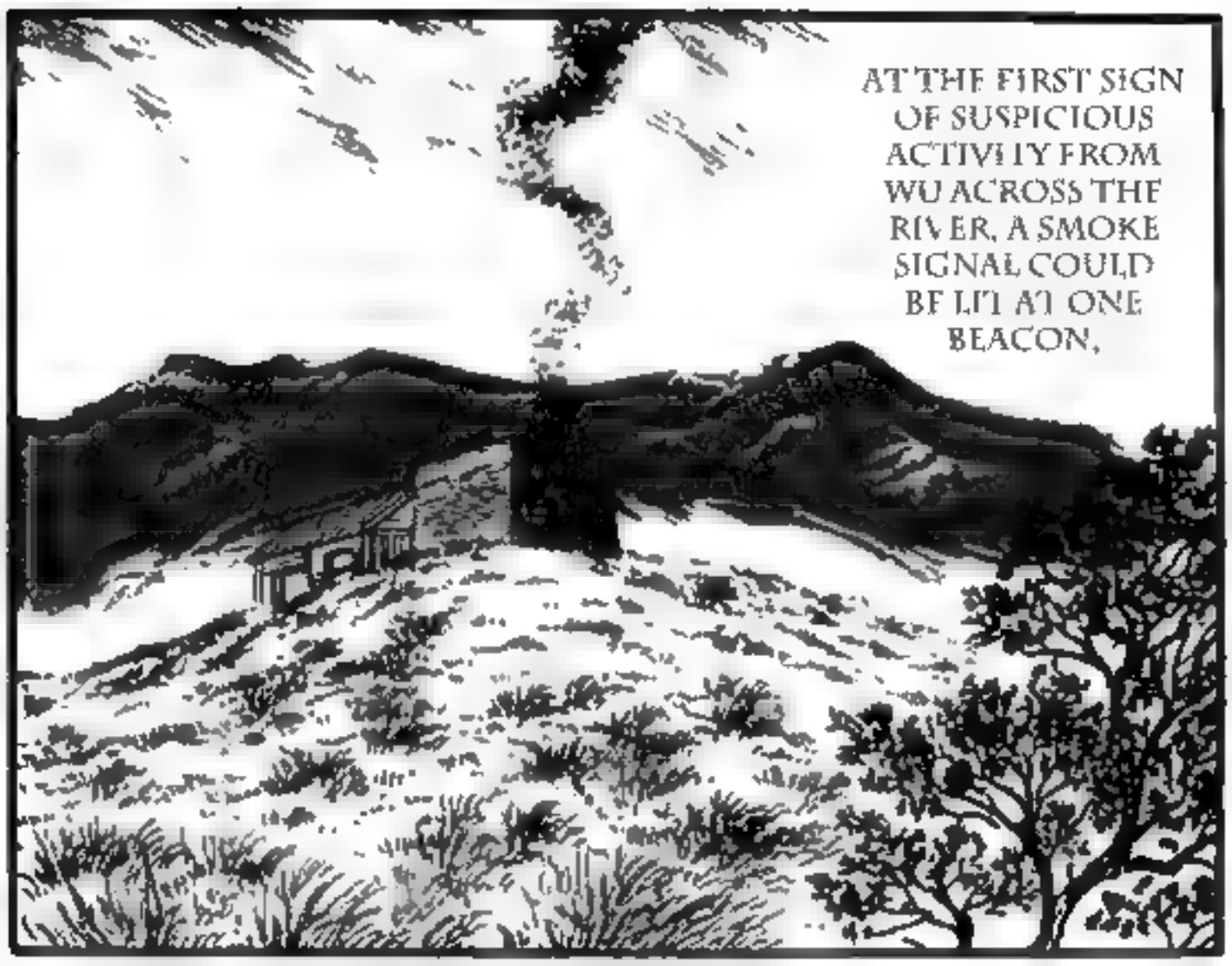
YES, THAT'S A *GOOD* WAY TO QUICKLY RELAY ANY INVASION WARNING.

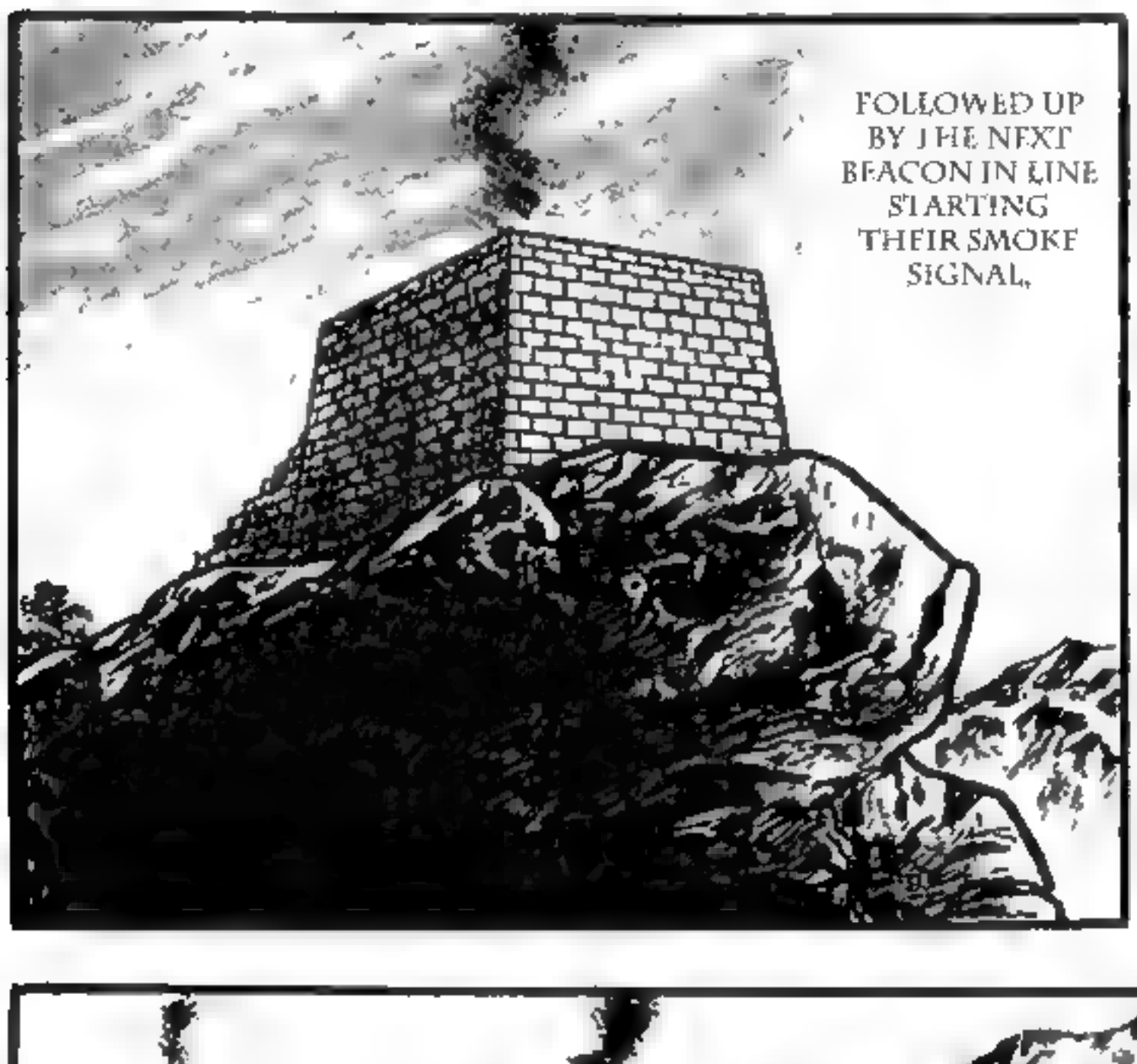
I PROPOSE WE CONSTRUCT A SERIES OF SMOKE BEACONS ALONG THE RIVERBANK.

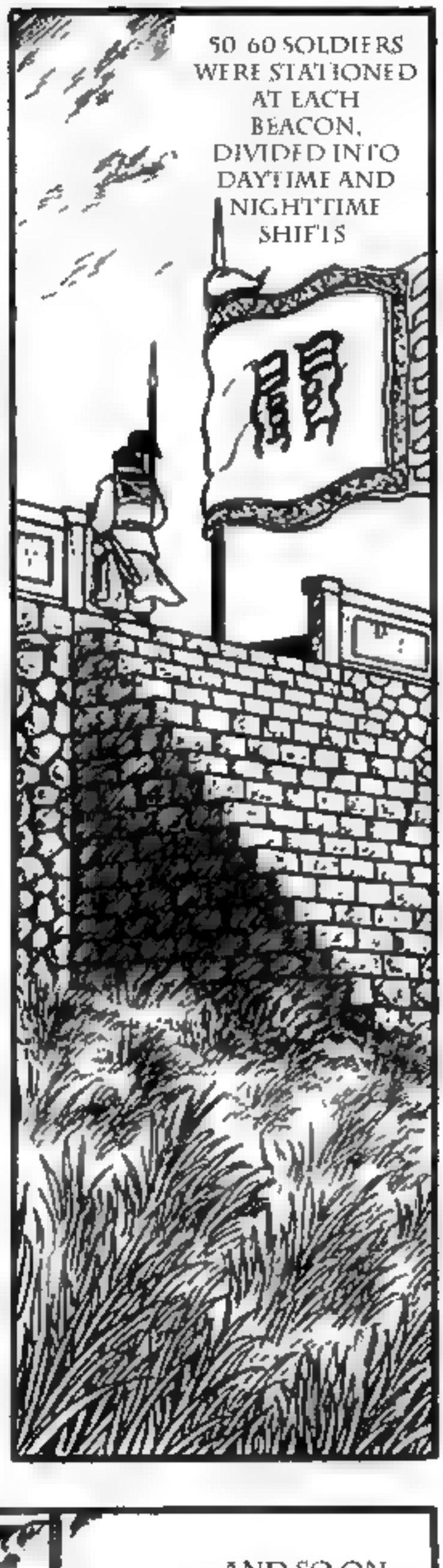
YES, SIR.

VERY WELL, WANG FU. I APPOINT YOU TO OVERSEE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE BEACONS.

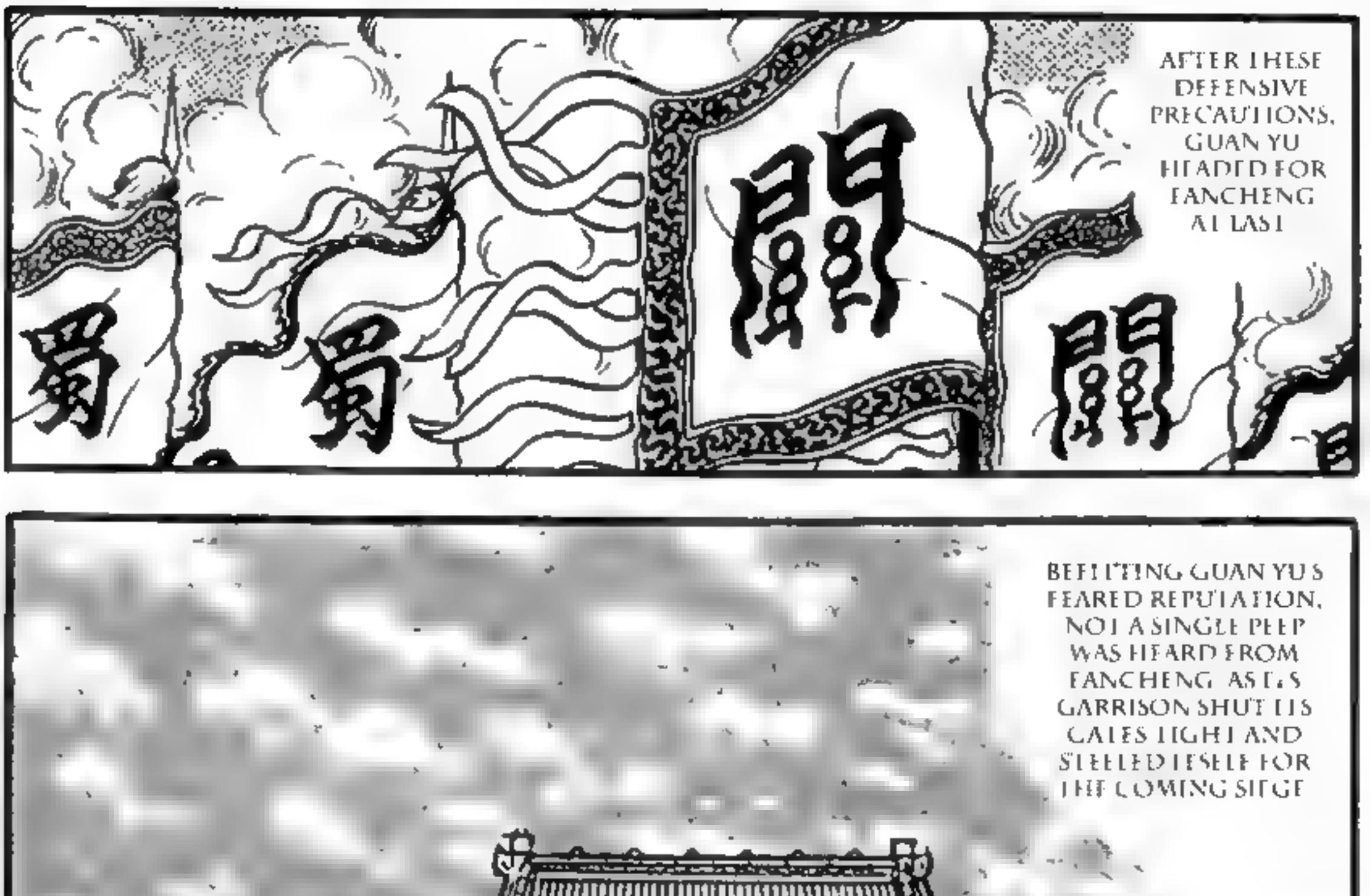
WANG FU QUICKLY RECRUITED ENGINEERS AND WORKERS TO BUILD AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF SMOKE BEACONS

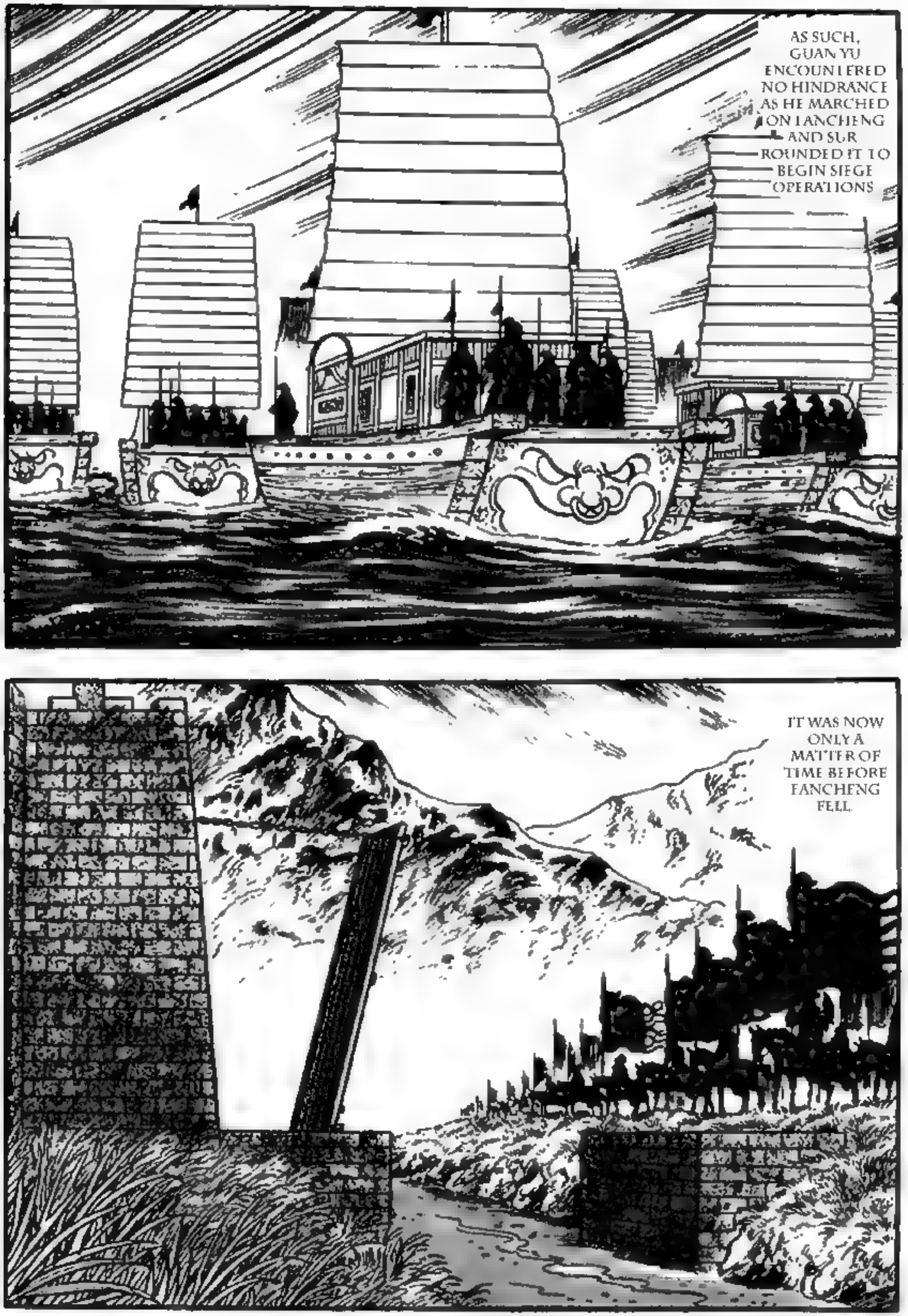

AT THE FIRST SIGN OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY FROM WU ACROSS THE RIVER, A SMOKE SIGNAL COULD BE LIT AT ONE BEACON,


FOLLOWED UP BY THE NEXT BEACON IN LINE STARTING THEIR SMOKE SIGNAL,

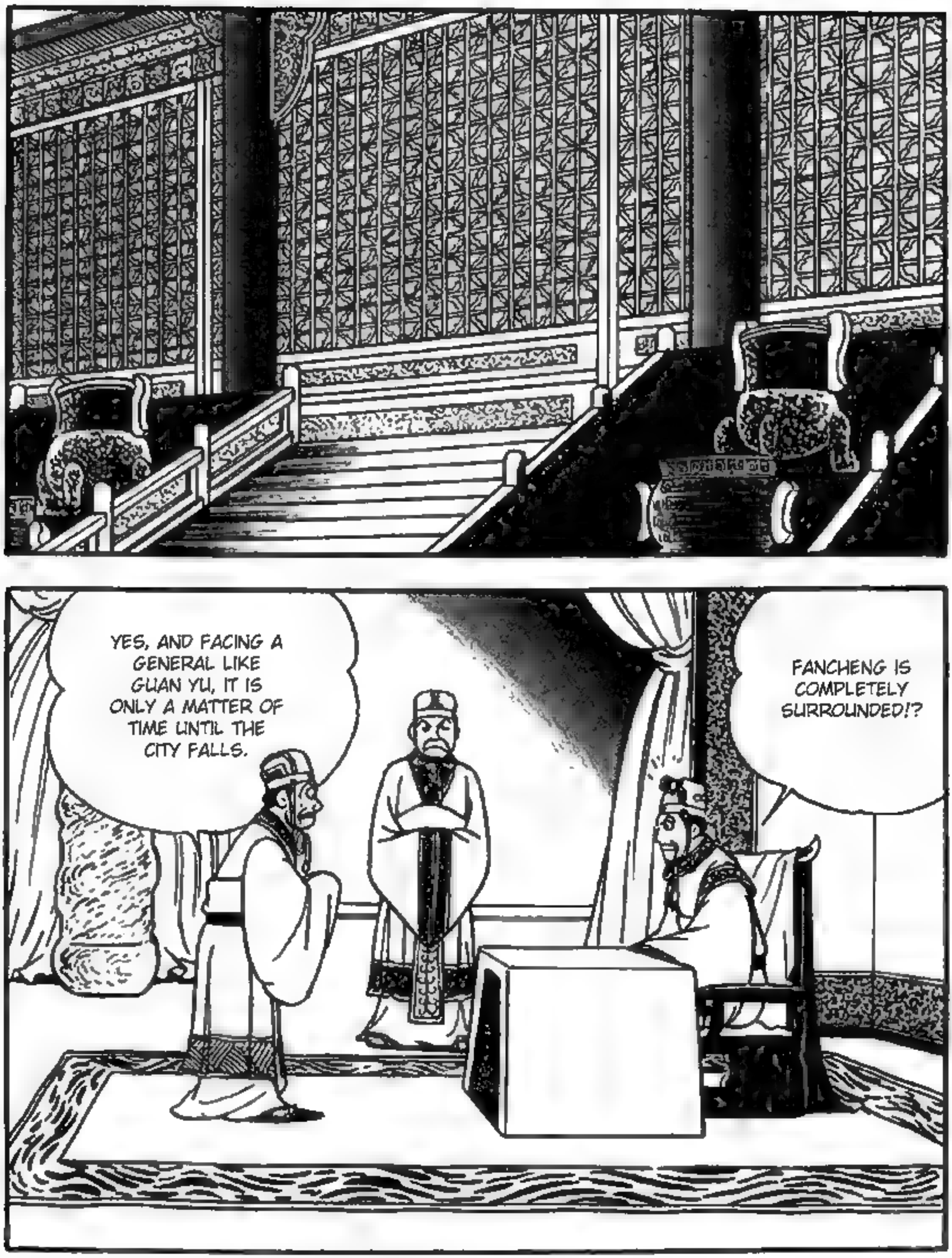

50 60 SOLDIERS WERE STATIONED AT EACH BEACON, DIVIDED INTO DAYTIME AND NIGHTTIME SHIFTS

AND SO ON AND SO ON, UNTIL IT REACHED GUAN YU'S NOTICE.


AFTER THESE DEFENSIVE PRECAUTIONS, GUAN YU HEADED FOR FANCHENG AT LAST
BEFITTING GUAN YU'S FEARED REPUTATION, NOT A SINGLE PEEP WAS HEARD FROM FANCHENG AS ITS GARRISON SHUT ITS GATES TIGHT AND STEELED ITSELF FOR THE COMING SIEGE

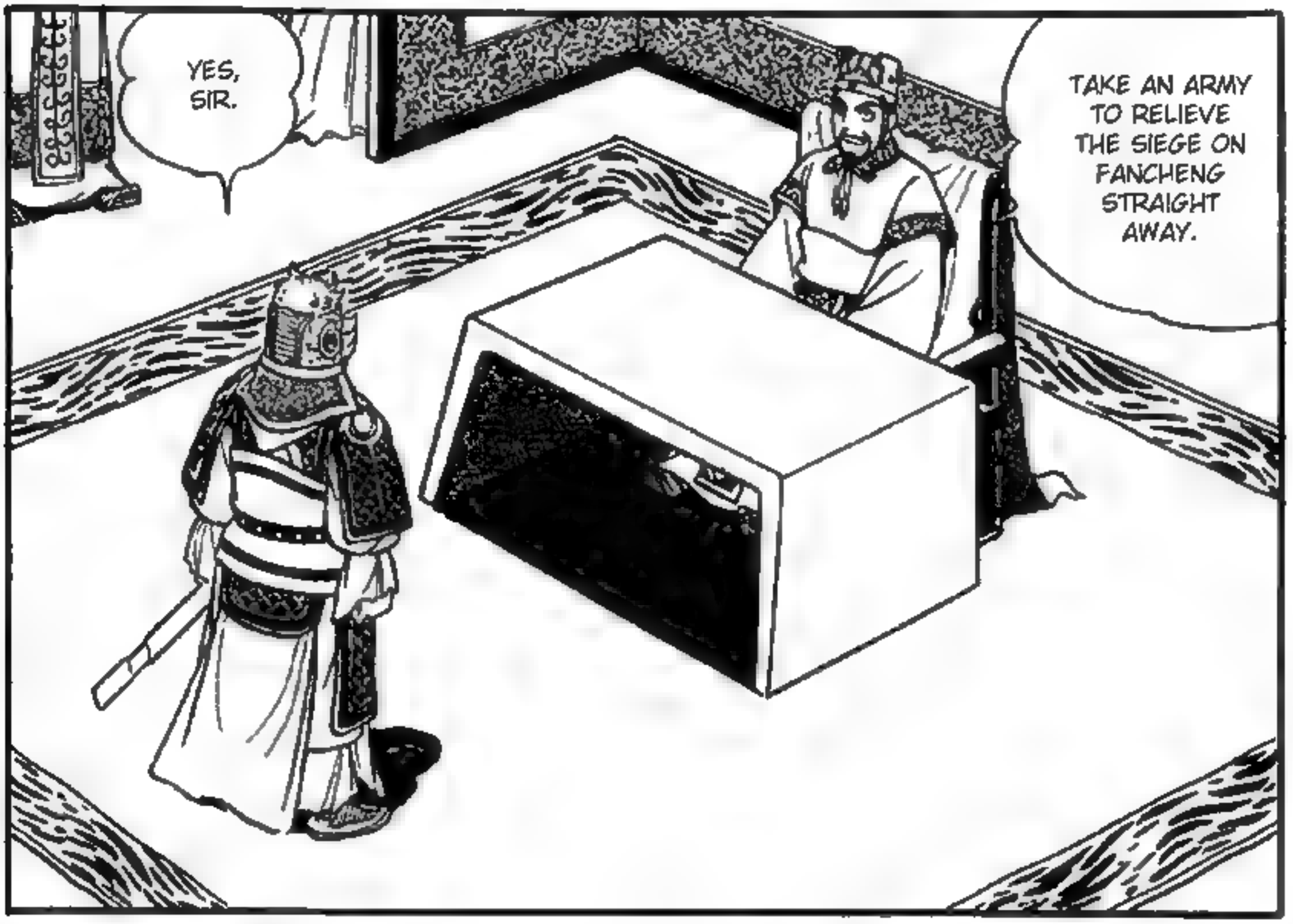

AS SUCH, GUAN YU ENCOUNTERED NO HINDRANCE AS HE MARCHED ON LANCHENG AND SUR ROUNDED IT TO BEGIN SIEGE OPERATIONS
IT WAS NOW ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE LANCHENG FELL.

COFFIN


YES, AND FACING A GENERAL LIKE GUAN YU, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE CITY FALLS.
FANCHENG IS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!?

YES?

YU JIN.


YES, SIR.
TAKE AN ARMY TO RELIEVE THE SIEGE ON FANCHENG STRAIGHT AWAY.

TRUE, OUR OPPONENT IS GUAN YU, AFTER ALL...

BUT I REQUIRE A CAPABLE MAN TO LEAD MY VANGUARD, YOUR HIGHNESS.

PLEASE ALLOW ME THE HONOUR, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WHO HERE IS CONFIDENT OF LEADING THIS VANGUARD TO DEFEAT GUAN YU'S FORCES!?

I WISH TO REPAY MY DEBT UNTIL NOW FOR YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY.

AHH! PANG DE, YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER?

YES, SIR.

TAKE 7 DIVISIONS (87,500 MEN) FROM MY PERSONAL ARMY CONSISTING OF MY ELITE TROOPS.

YU JIN'S RESIDENCE

HM? TWO OF THE OFFICERS LEADING THE 7 DIVISIONS FOR THE UPCOMING EXPEDITION?

DONG CHENG AND DONG HENG ARE HERE TO SEE YOU, MASTER.

YES, MASTER.

WELL LET THEM IN.

?

THEY SHOULD BE BUSY WITH THEIR OWN PREPARATIONS. I WONDER WHY THEY'VE COME...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN THIS MOMENT OF BUSY PREPARATION?
AND I AM DONG CHENG.
HELLO, SIR. I AM DONG HENG.

PRESSING CONCERN? AND THAT WOULD BE...?

WE HAD A PRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE UPCOMING CAMPAIGN.

HIS FORMER LORD IS NOW A NOTABLE GENERAL IN SHU, HAVING BEEN APPOINTED ONE OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS. MOREOEVER, PANG DE'S BROTHER PANG ROU IS ALSO A SHU OFFICER NOW.

PANG DE WAS A FORMER AIDE TO MA CHAO, WHO WAS FORCED TO SUBMIT TO WEI AFTER BEING CAPTURED ALIVE.

PANG DE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO LEAD THE VANGUARD, HAS HE NOT?

YES, AND...?

HMM...

WE HAVE DOUBTS IF A MAN WITH SUCH CONNECTIONS CAN BE TRULY TRUSTED TO LEAD OUR VANGUARD. IMAGINE THE CONSEQUENCES IF HE WERE TO SWITCH SIDES DURING BATTLE...

YES, SIR.

I SEE. YOU TWO BRING UP A LEGITIMATE POINT. I SHALL HAVE A WORD WITH HIS HIGHNESS ABOUT THIS AS WELL.

DOUBTS ABOUT HIS ALLEGIANCE MAY AFFECT TROOP MORALE AS WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I SEE, SO YOU'RE WORRIED HE MAY ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF YOUR FORCES.

YES, SIR.

CALL PANG DE.

TRUE, I CANNOT ENTIRELY DENY THE POSSIBILITY OF HIM SWITCHING SIDES IN BATTLE.

WELL...

FOR WHAT REASON HAS YOUR HIGHNESS CALLED ME URGENTLY?

WHAT!

I'M AFRAID I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS THE VANGUARD LEADER.

ALTHOUGH I TRUST YOU, IT SEEMS THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR THE OTHER OFFICERS.

B-BUT WHY, SIR!? PLEASE TELL ME THE REASON...

YES, YOUR TIES WITH YOUR FORMER LORD AND BROTHER WHO ARE NOW IN SHU HAVE MADE THE OTHER OFFICERS QUESTION YOUR LOYALTY...

IS THIS ABOUT... MY POSSIBLE BETRAYAL?

THERE IS NOTHING I CAN SAY IN MY DEFENSE EXCEPT LAMENT MY CIRCUM-STANCES.

SINCE COMING TO YOUR SERVICE, I HAVE ONLY THOUGHT OF REPAYING MY DEBT FOR YOUR MAGNANIMOUS HOSPITALITY. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS I HAVE ONLY SPREAD DISSENSION AMONG YOUR RANKS AND CAUSED YOU NEEDLESS WORRY.

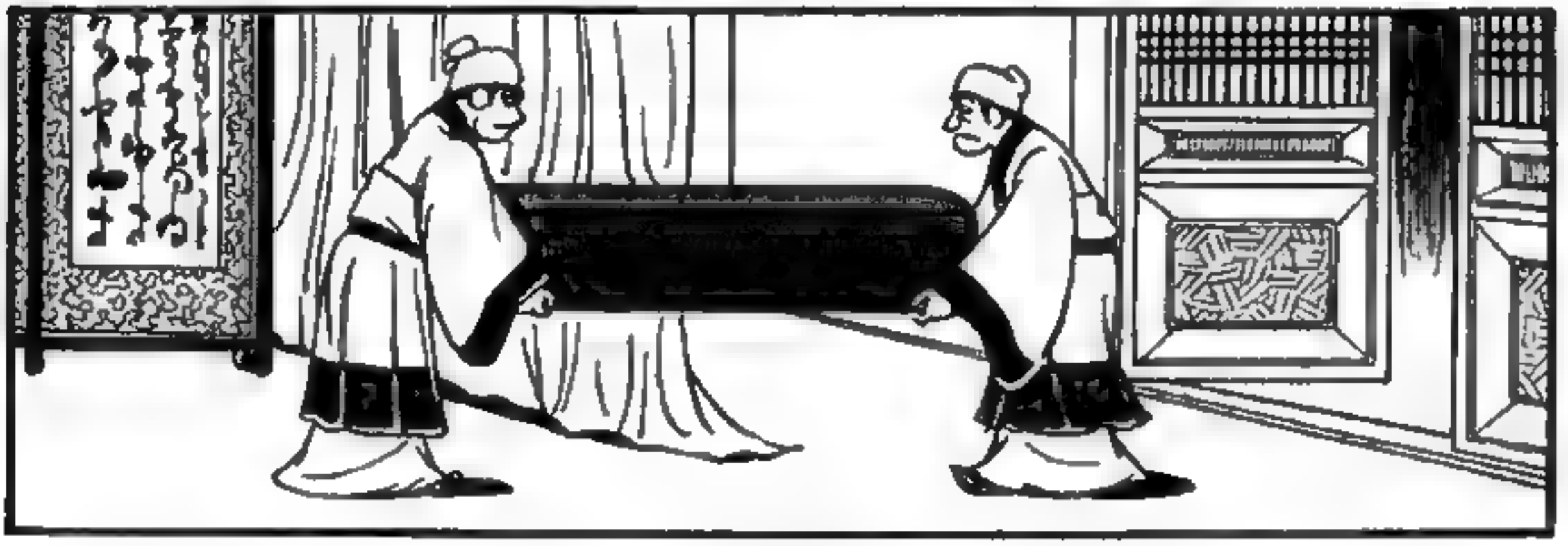
PANG DE, I HAVE PERSONALLY NEVER ONCE DOUBTED YOUR LOYALTY. I KNOW YOUR SENSE OF DUTY IS FAR STRONGER THAN MOST.

YES, SIR!

AND AS I AM MY OWN LORD, I WILL PLACE MY JUDGMENT OVER THOSE OF OTHERS BY KEEPING YOU AS THE VANGUARD LEADER. ACHIEVE A GLORIOUS VICTORY SO THAT OTHERS CANNOT QUESTION YOU AGAIN.

PANG DE S
RESIDENCE
DID MY MASTER SAY COFFIN? IN WHICH CORPSES ARE PLACED?
YES.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
GO BUY A COFFIN IMMEDIATELY.
?
?

PLACE IT IN THE DINING HALL.
WE HAVE BROUGHT THE COFFIN BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT, MASTER?



AH!

A COFFIN? HOW EERIE...

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, SIR?

HIS HIGHNESS HAS JUST CALLED ME TO SAY THERE ARE THOSE WHO DOUBT MY LOYALTY, MAYBE EVEN IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO ROADS BEFORE ME NOW. TO RETURN INSIDE THIS COFFIN OR BRING BACK GUAN YU IN IT. THUS, THIS COFFIN WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO WAR.

BUT REST ASSURED, I HARBOUR NO SHRED OF TREACHERY. I INTEND TO EARNESTLY FACE OFF AGAINST GUAN YU AT FANCHENG TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO HIS HIGHNESS AND PROVE MY HONOUR AS A WARRIOR.

HE'S SERIOUS...

AS THIS MAY BE MY FINAL DRINK, LET US HAVE NO REGRETS WITH THIS BANQUET! ENJOY!

AFTER THIS DRAMATIC GESTURE PANG DE BOLDLY LED THE VANGUARD TO FANCHENG
魏
魏
魏
魏
魏
魏

A COFFIN, SIR.

HE CARRIED OFF A WHAT TO WAR!?

IF I MAY INTEJECT, YOUR HIGHNESS...

HA, SUCH BOLD DETERMINATION SHOULD CLEAR UP THE OTHER OFFICERS' DOUBTS.

HIS MARTIAL PROWESS IS KNOWN ALL ACROSS THE REALM AND IN OVER 30 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE, HE HAS YET TO MAKE A SINGLE BLUNDER IN BATTLE.

GUAN YU IS NO ORDINARY GENERAL.

WHY, WHAT IS IT NOW?

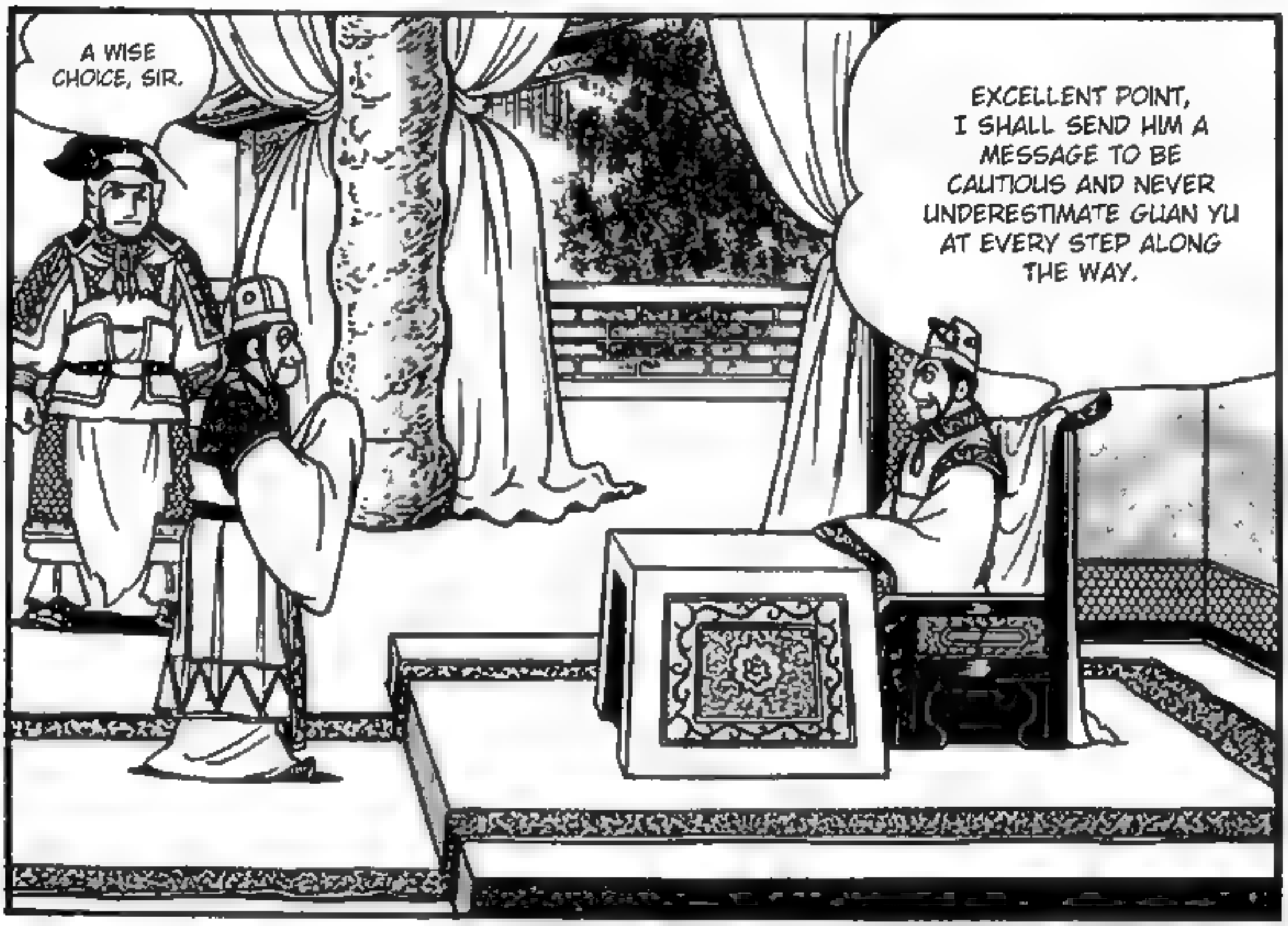
YOUR HIGHNESS IS A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER, FOR PANG DE IS NOT INFERIOR TO GUAN YU IN TERMS OF MARTIAL VALOUR AND INDEED FIT TO LEAD THE VANGUARD. HOWEVER, I FEAR PANG DE IS DISADVANTAGED IN TERMS OF WITS.

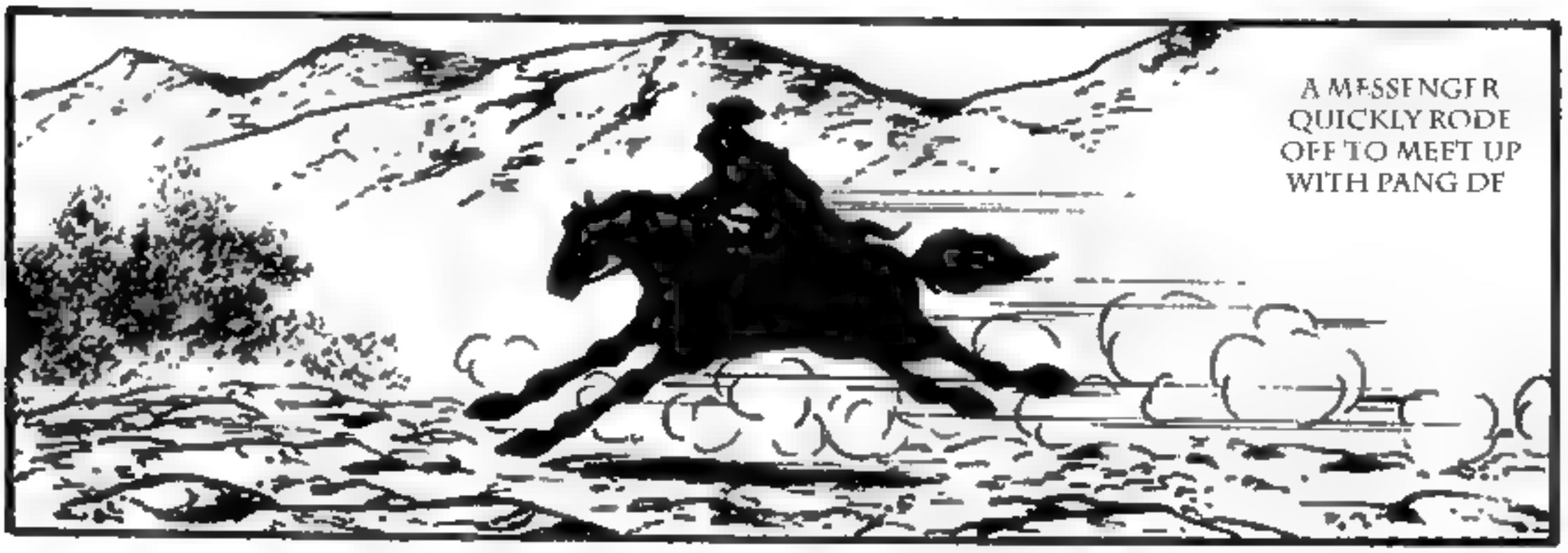
PANG DE IS A TALENTED MAN THAT STILL HAS MUCH TO OFFER TO WEI AND THUS MUST NOT RUSH TO A PREMATURE DEATH. I SUGGEST WE TEMPER HIS EAGERNESS TO PROVE HIMSELF.

TO STUBBORNLY INSIST ON EITHER GUAN YU'S DEATH OR HIS OWN IS, I BELIEVE, AN UNDERESTIMATION OF GUAN YU.

YES, HE IS TOO VALUABLE TO LOSE.

AH, A WORD OF CAUTION TO NOT SEEK A VALIANT DEATH?


A WISE CHOICE, SIR.
EXCELLENT POINT, I SHALL SEND HIM A MESSAGE TO BE CAUTIOUS AND NEVER UNDERESTIMATE GUAN YU AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY.


A MESSENGER QUICKLY RODE OFF TO MEET UP WITH PANG DE

PANG DE (龐德); WEI (魏)

THE WORLD SEEMS TO UTTER "GUAN YU, GUAN YU," LIKE SOME SORT OF TERRIFYING CURSE, BUT EVEN HE IS NO SUPERNATURAL SPIRIT.

NO APPREHENSIVE WORDS OF CAUTION CAN MAKE MY FOCUS ON GUAN YU WAVER NOW THAT I'VE COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

HAHAHA! OF COURSE, OF COURSE!

CONFIDENCE IS GOOD TO HAVE, PANG DE, BUT REMEMBER TO TAKE CAUTION JUST AS OUR HIGHNESS HAS SAID.

PANG DE OF NAN'AN

PANG DE IS ALREADY AROUND 30 LI AWAY FROM HERE. HE IS DETERMINED TO TAKE YOUR HEAD AT ALL COSTS OR RETURN INSIDE THE COFFIN HE CARRIED ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE BATTLEFIELD. NOT ONLY THAT, HE CARRIES A WHITE BANNER WITH THE WORDS, "MUST KILL GUAN YU," WRITTEN ON IT.

YES, SIR.

YU JIN IS COMING TO RELIEVE OUR SIEGE WITH AN ARMY OF 7 DIVISIONS AND PANG DE AS HIS VICE-COMMANDER AND VANGUARD LEADER?

HE DARES UNDER-ESTIMATE THE MAN WHOSE NAME EVEN MAKES THE GREAT CAO CAO COWER?

WHAT!?

VERY WELL. I SHALL GRANT HIS WISH BY SENDING HIS BODY BACK IN HIS COFFIN.

THE LIKES OF PANG DE IS NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH FOR MY FATHER TO PERSONALLY GO CHALLENGE.

ALLOW ME TO DEAL WITH HIM.

HAVE I NOT MADE MYSELF CLEAR? I WILL GO SLAY PANG DE.

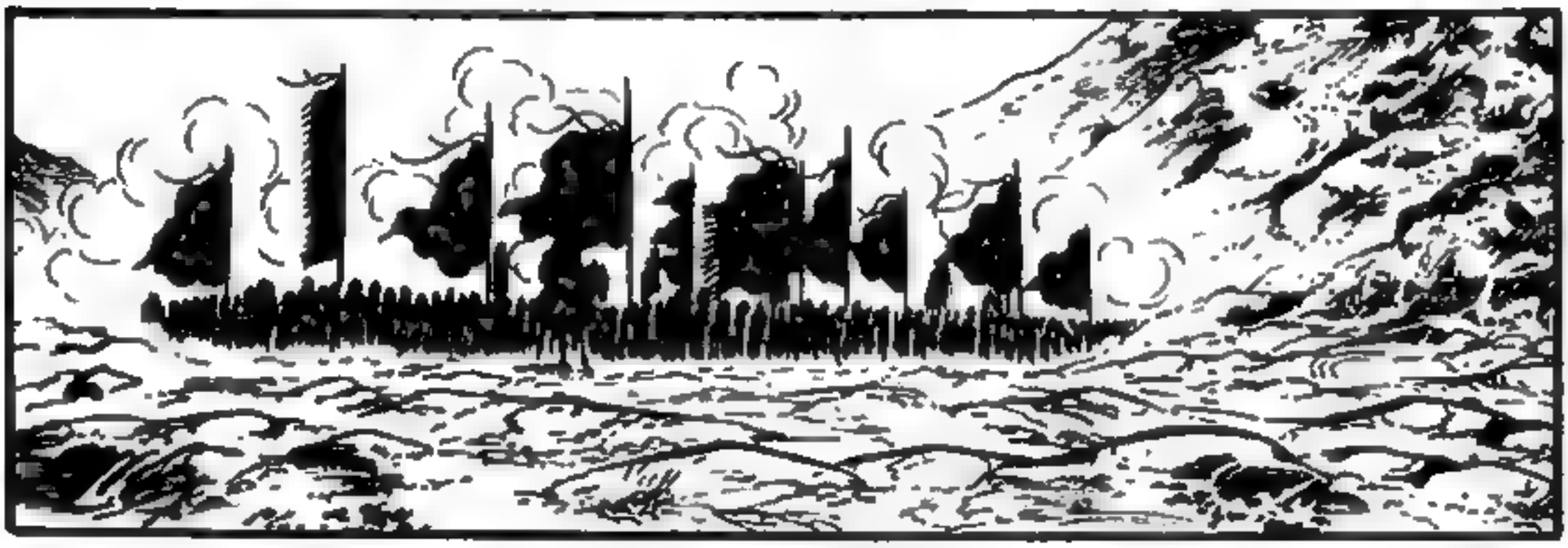
FATHER, WHERE ARE YOU HEADED!?

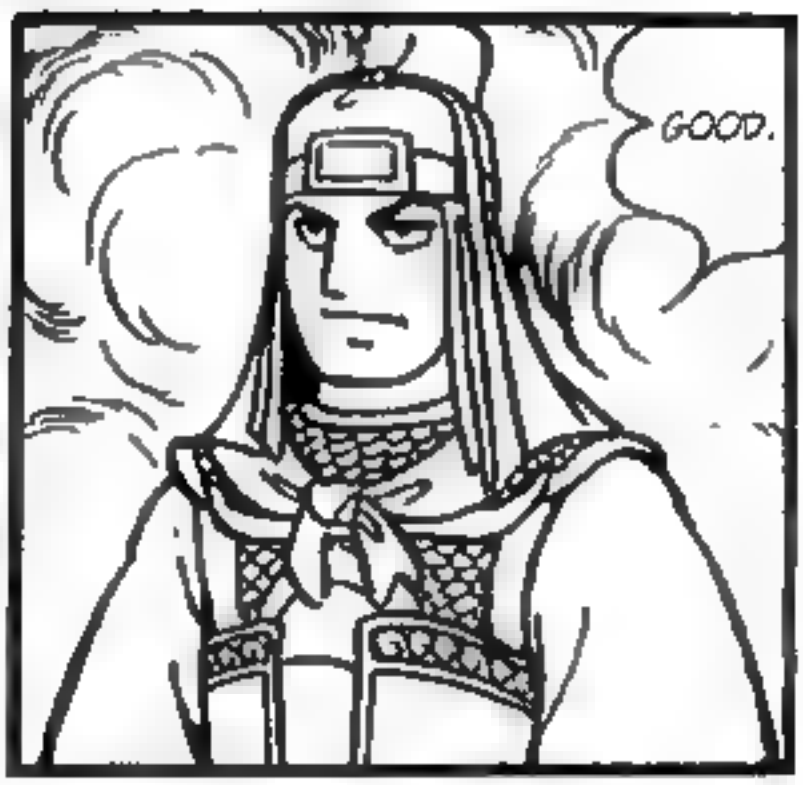
THANK YOU.

FINE, GO AND AWAKE HIM FROM HIS DELUSION.

LET US SET OFF!

SIR, PANG DE'S FORCES ARE JUST UP AHEAD!




GOOD.

PANG DE, YOU TREACHEROUS REBEL! COME FORTH!

必殺関羽
HA, I CAME TO SLAY THE TIGER, NOT HIS CUB.

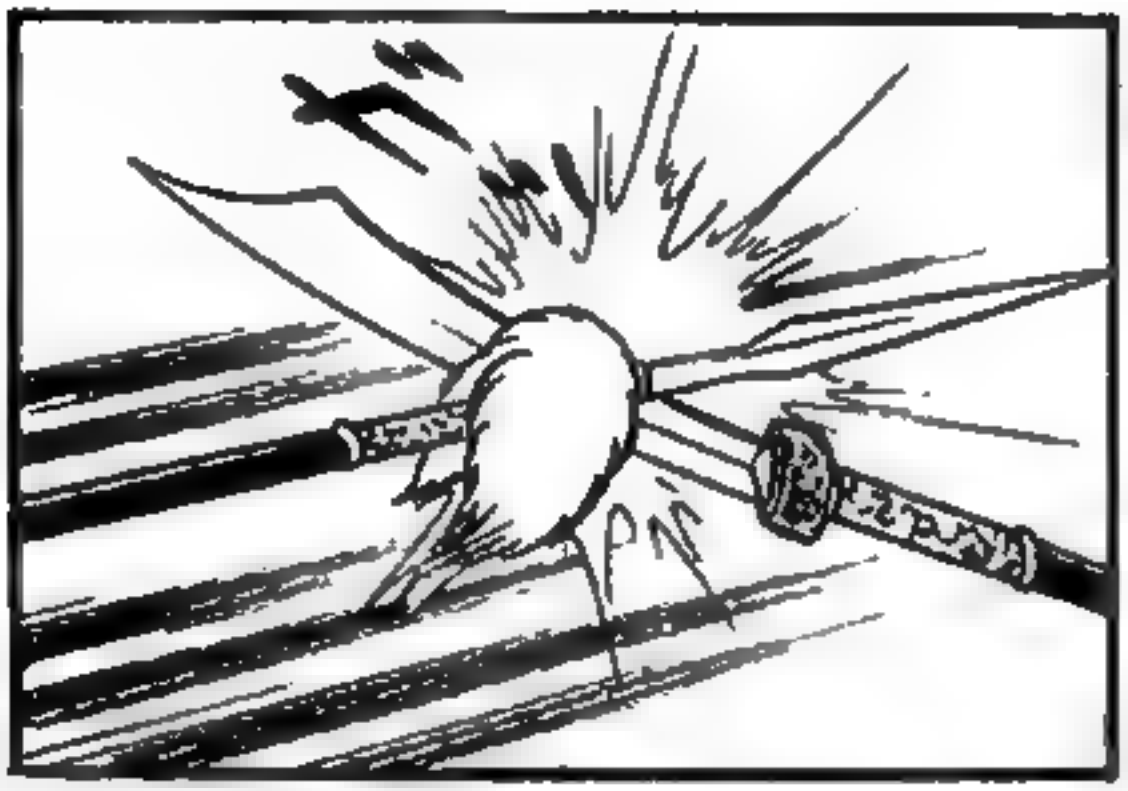
THAT IS GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON, GUAN PING.
WHO'S THAT?

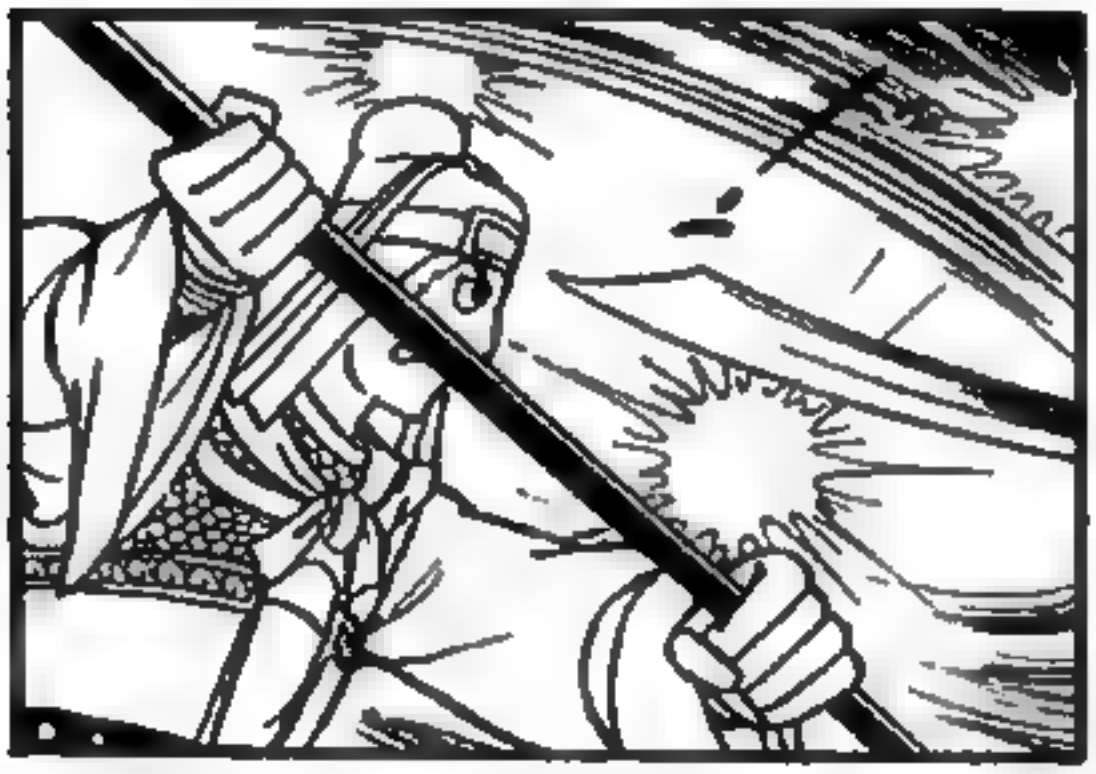
NGHH...

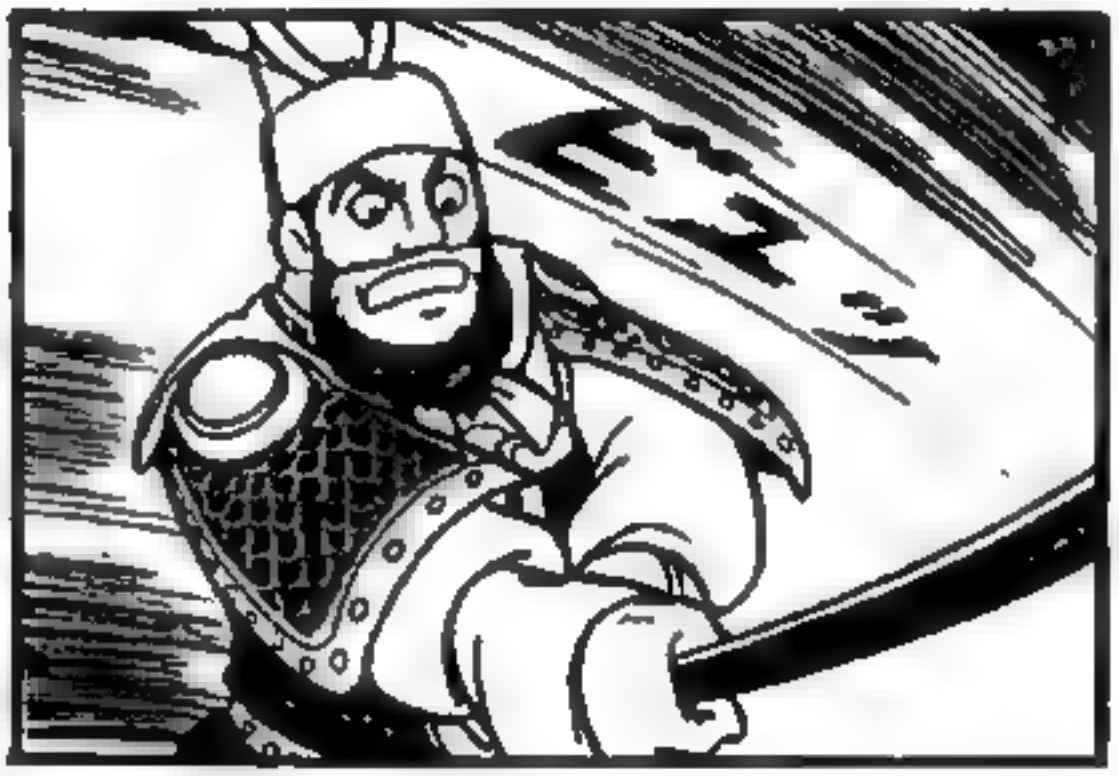
THE KING OF WEI HAS COMMANDED ME TO BRING BACK GUAN YU'S HEAD. I SHALL SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE SO GO CALL YOUR FATHER HERE FORTHWITH.

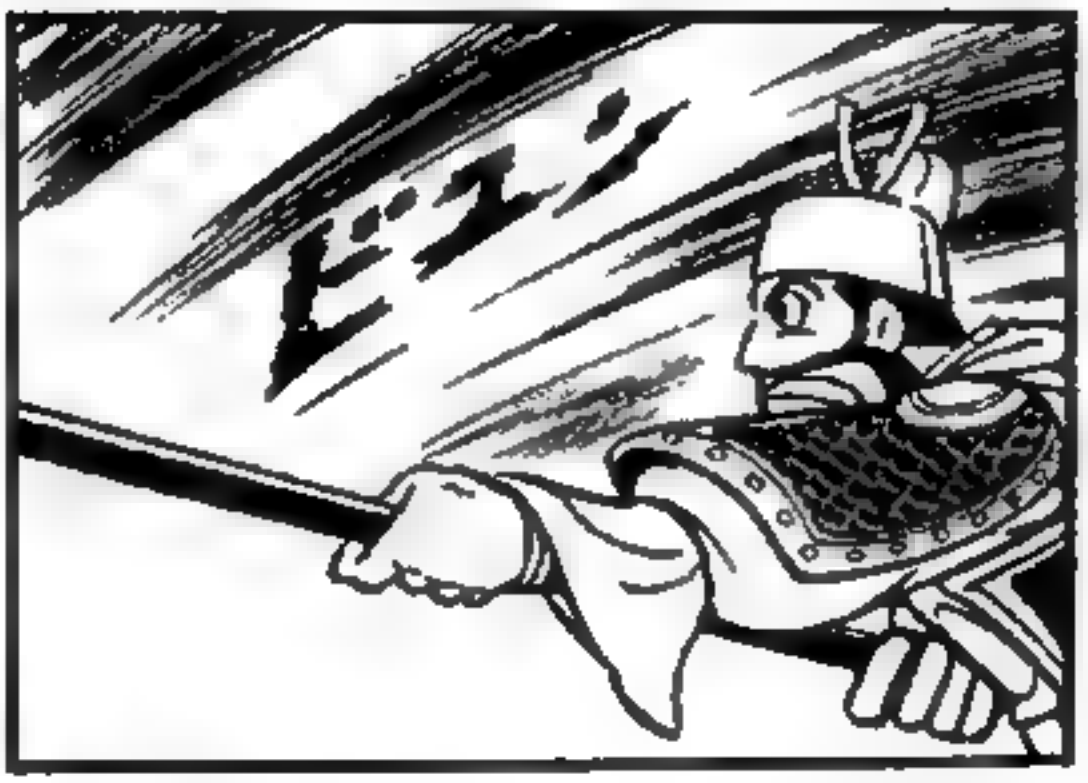
NAIVE LITTLE WHELP...

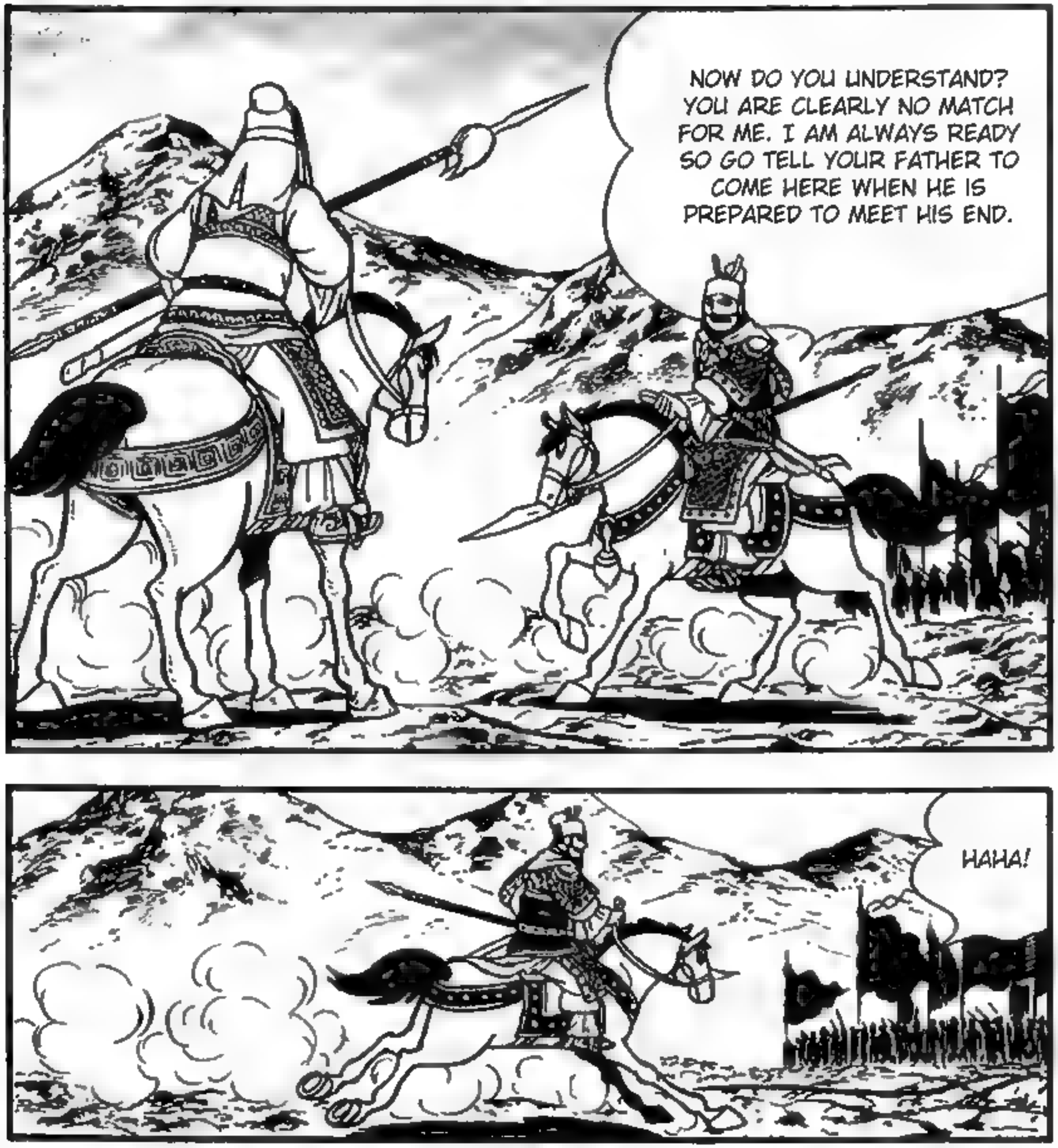
I WILL NOT STAND FOR ANY DISRESPECT TO MY FATHER!








ビュン


NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU ARE CLEARLY NO MATCH FOR ME. I AM ALWAYS READY SO GO TELL YOUR FATHER TO COME HERE WHEN HE IS PREPARED TO MEET HIS END.
HAHA!

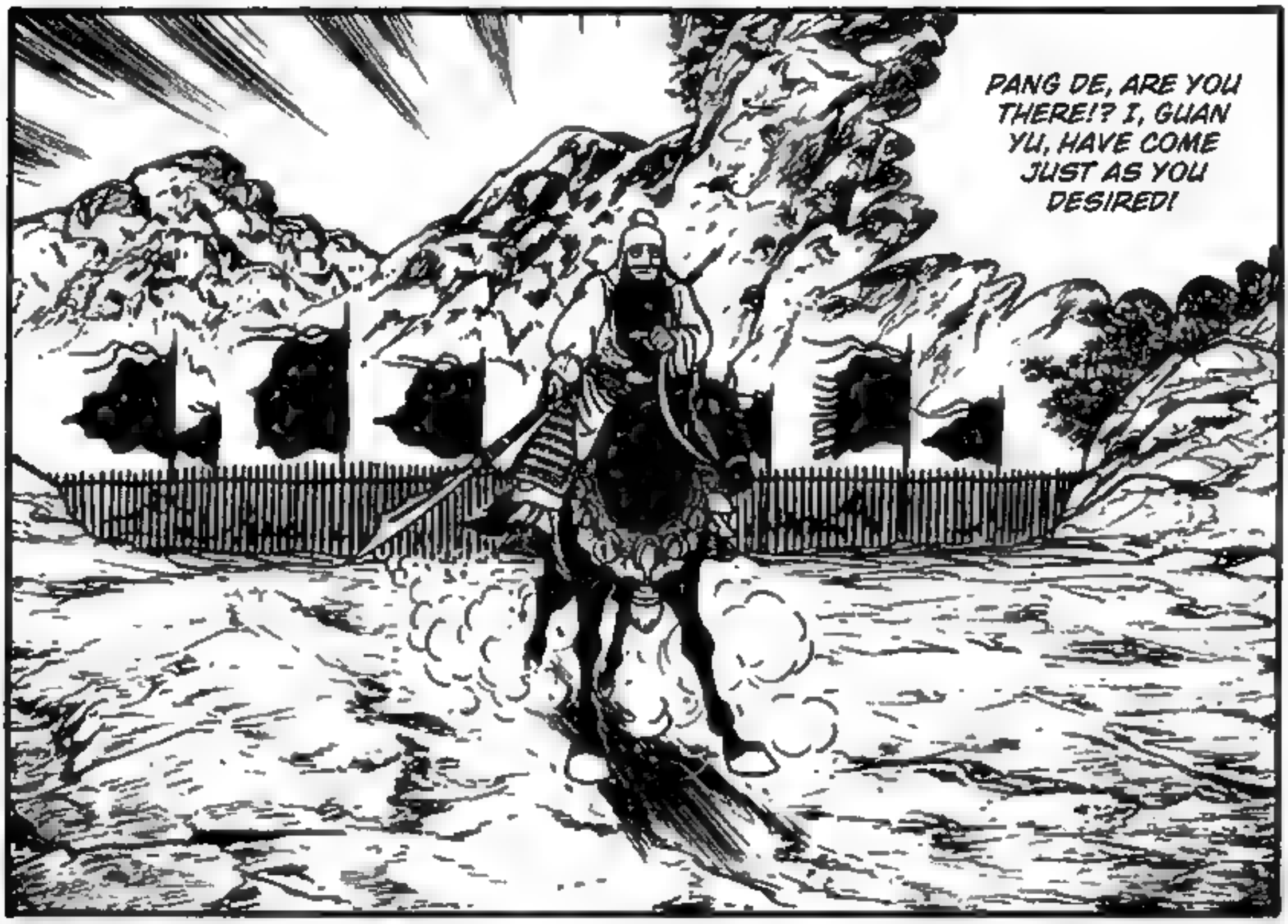
YES, IT APPEARS THIS PANG DE OF NAN'AN HAS THE SKILL TO BACK UP HIS BOASTS.
WHAT? HE TOYED AROUND WITH GUAN PING?

LIAO HUA, YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER THE SIEGE OF FANCHENG.

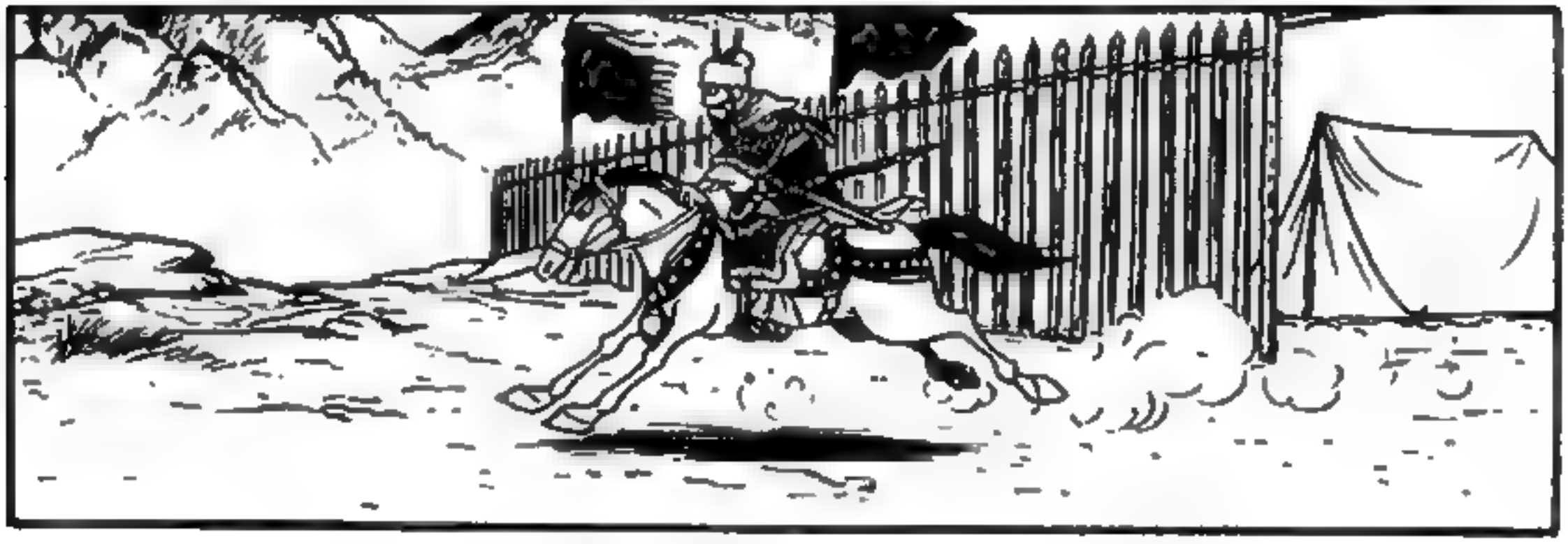
FINE, I SHALL GO DEAL WITH HIM MYSELF.

YES, SIR.
MAKE SURE TO KEEP FANCHENG SHUT OFF COMPLETELY. IF ITS GARRISON REALIZES REINFORCEMENTS ARE JUST 30 LI AWAY, THEY WILL RESIST EVEN LONGER.

關平
蜀
蜀
蜀
I HEAR PANG DE'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE.
FATHER!
蜀
STAND BACK AND WATCH HOW YOUR FATHER HANDLES THINGS.


PANG DE, ARE YOU THERE!? I, GUAN YU, HAVE COME JUST AS YOU DESIRED!

OHHH!

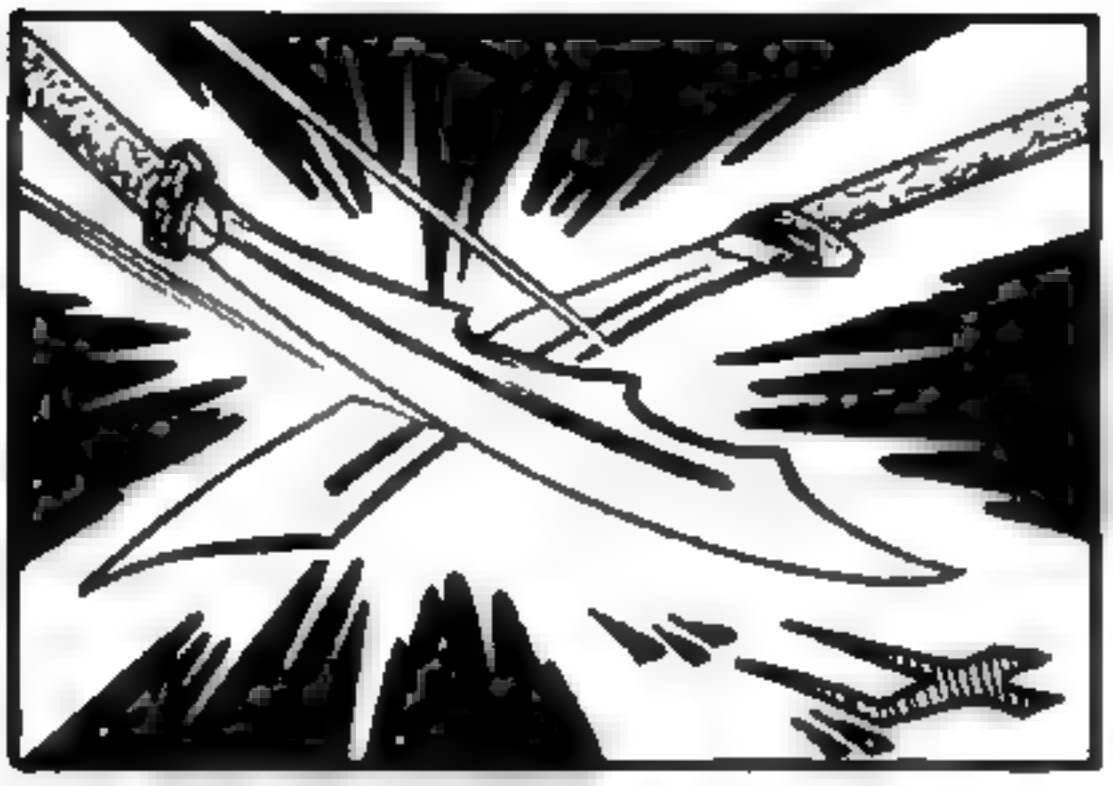


HAHAHA! WHERE IS THE COFFIN I HEAR YOU BROUGHT? YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT SOON ENOUGH, AFTER ALL!

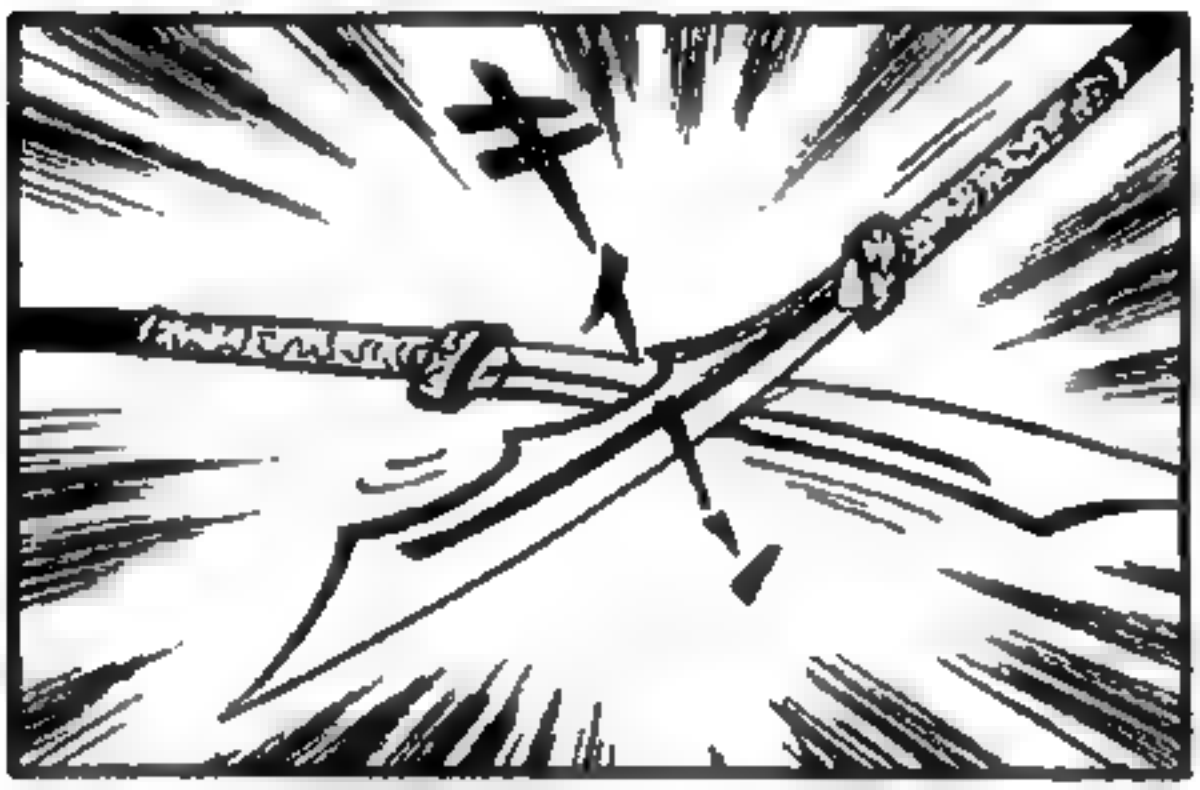
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SO LONG! LET US HAVE A ONE-ON-ONE DUEL!

HMPH.

HERE I COME!



ドン



ヒュ
ン

カ"

PANG DE S BOASTS WERE BACKED UP WITH EVERY ONE OF HIS STRIKES EVEN AFTER BOTH WARRIORS EXCHANGED A HUNDRED BOUTS, NEITHER WAS CLOSER TO VICTORY.

BOTH SIDES WATCHED THE DUEL.

WITH BATED BREATH.

YES, SIR.

SOUND THE RETREAT SIGNAL!

FATHER IS GETTING ON IN HIS YEARS, HE'LL BE DISADVANTAGED THE LONGER THIS FIGHT CONTINUES...

YES, SIR.

WE SHOULD CALL GENERAL PANG DE BACK TOO. IT IS TOO RISKY TO LET HIM CONTINUE ON WITHOUT BREAK FOR MUCH LONGER.

AGREED.

THAT IS MY TROOP'S SIGNAL TO RETREAT. I AM NOT ONE TO BREAK THE RULES I IMPOSE ON MY OWN SOLDIERS SO LET US CONTINUE THIS DUEL ANOTHER DAY.

HAHAHA, I'M FINE.

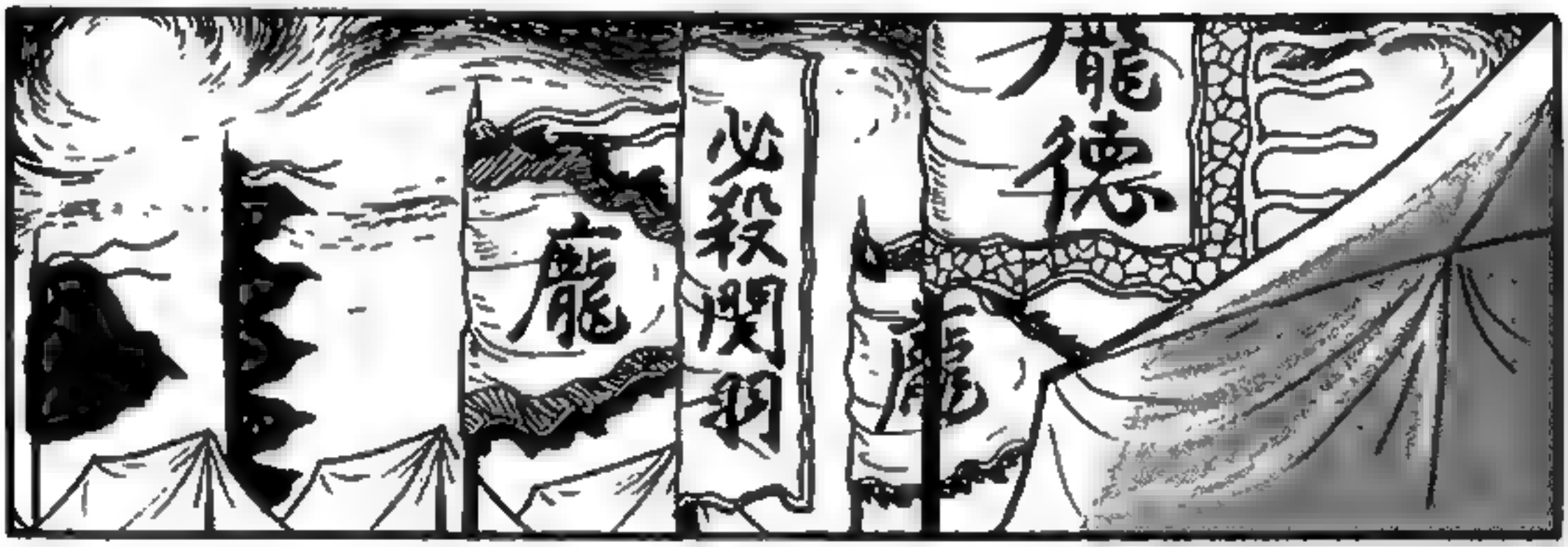
FATHER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

FATHER, I BEG YOU TO NOT RISK YOURSELF IN A DUEL AGAIN. YOU ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO HIS HIGHNESS.

THAT PANG DE IS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT! HE IS TRULY A WORTHY FOE FOR ME.

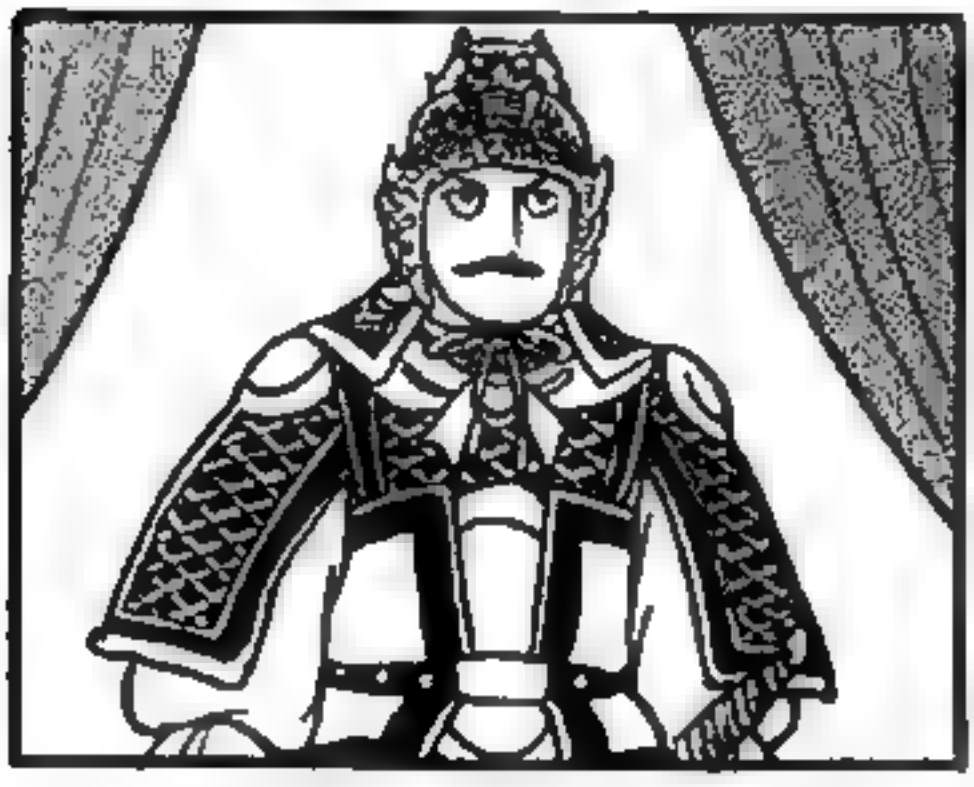
DO NOT WORRY, OR ARE YOU FORGETTING THAT YOUR FATHER IS GUAN YU? I WILL CUT PANG DE DOWN TOMORROW.

IT SEEMS FATHER IS NOT WILLING TO ADMIT HE'S NEARLY SIXTY...


龐德
必殺關羽
龐

WHETHER I SURVIVE OR AM SLAIN, I CAN THINK OF NO GREATER HONOUR AS A WARRIOR TO HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO FIGHT SUCH A WORTHY OPPONENT.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY THE PEOPLE OF THIS REALM ALL SPEAK OF GUAN YU'S NAME WITH FEAR AND RESPECT. HE IS TRULY A WARRIOR AMONG WARRIORS.



SIR, COM-MANDER YU JIN IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

AFTER TODAY'S PERFORMANCE, NO ONE CAN DOUBT YOUR SKILL AS A WARRIOR. I THUS URGE YOU TO NOT NEEDLESSLY RISK YOUR LIFE ANYMORE.

YES, I DO NOT THINK I WILL FIND ANOTHER FOE OF HIS CALIBRE A SECOND TIME.

THAT WAS A MAGNIFICENT DUEL TODAY.

YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD CALL OFF THE DUEL!?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT COMMANDER, IF I COULD SIMPLY WITHDRAW AFTER MEETING SUCH A WORTHY FOE OUT OF SELF-PRESERVATION, I WOULD HAVE NEVER BECOME A WARRIOR.

.....

I HAVE NO REGRETS EVEN IF I WERE TO LOSE IN BATTLE!

GUAN YU! COME OUT!

I HOPE YOU HAVE WASHED YOUR HEAD SO THAT I MAY OBTAIN A CLEAN WAR TROPHY TODAY.

AH, GOOD! I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO SCARED TO CHALLENGE ME AGAIN.

VERY WELL!

ENOUGH WORDS!

THE TWO EXCHANGED A FURIOUS FLURRY OF BLOWS, BUT AS WITH THE PREVIOUS DAY, NEITHER COULD GAIN THE UPPER HAND

HE MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING...

HM?

STOP RIGHT THERE, PANG DE! RESORTING TO PETTY TRICKS INSTEAD OF LETTING OUR BLADES DECIDE DOES NOT BEFIT A WARRIOR!

I MUST CALL FATHER BACK!

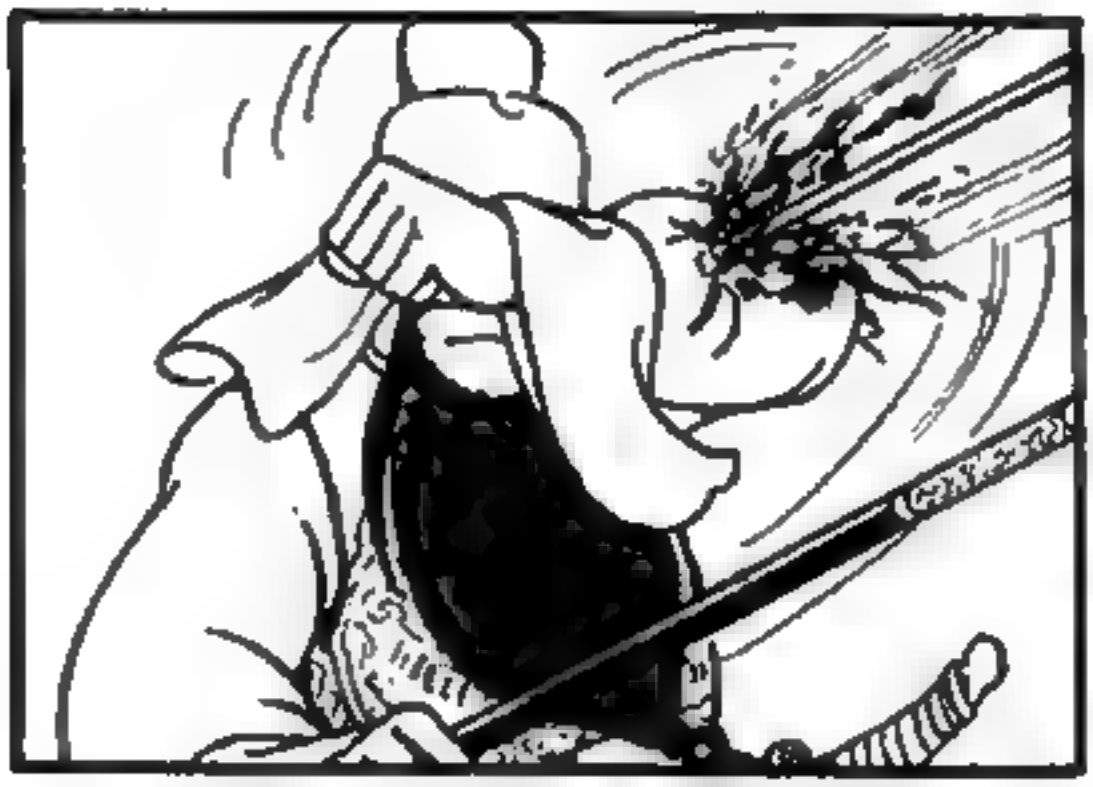
AH!

PANG DE MUST BE PLOTTING SOME-THING...

YOU THINK A MERE TRICK CAN BEST YOUR FATHER?

FATHER! PANG DE MAY BE PLOTTING SOMETHING! DO NOT PURSUE HIM FARTHER!

AH!



NOW!
ATTACK!

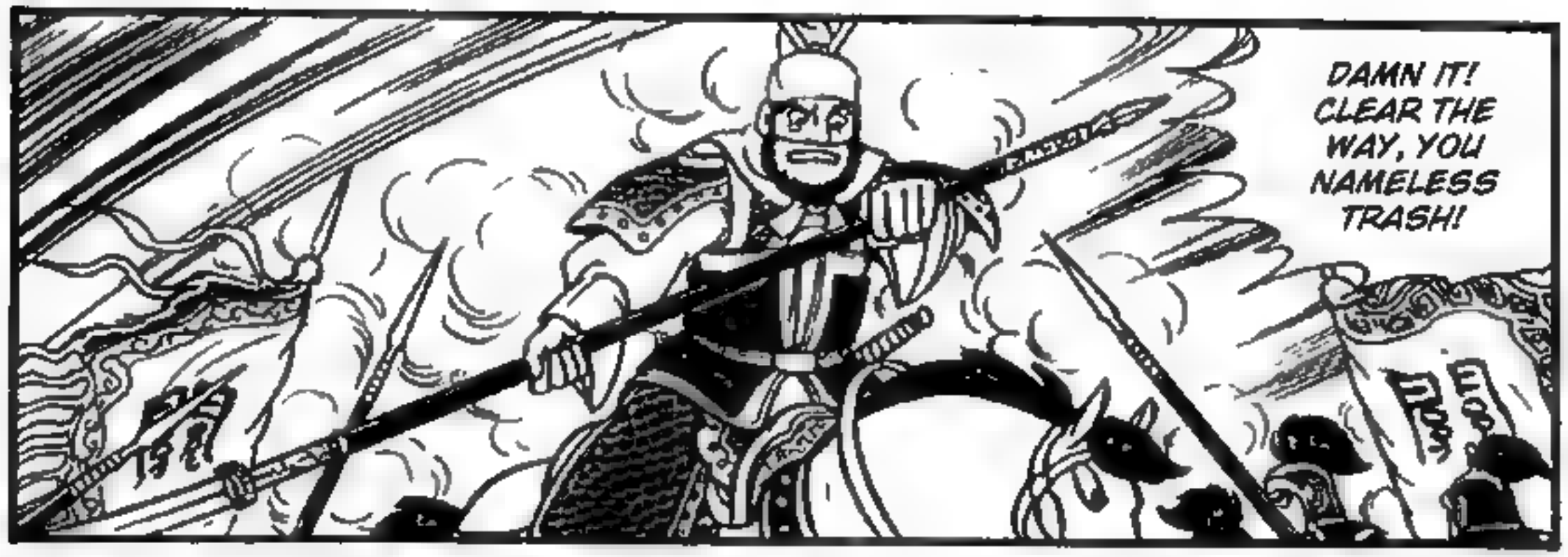
FATHER!

NGH...

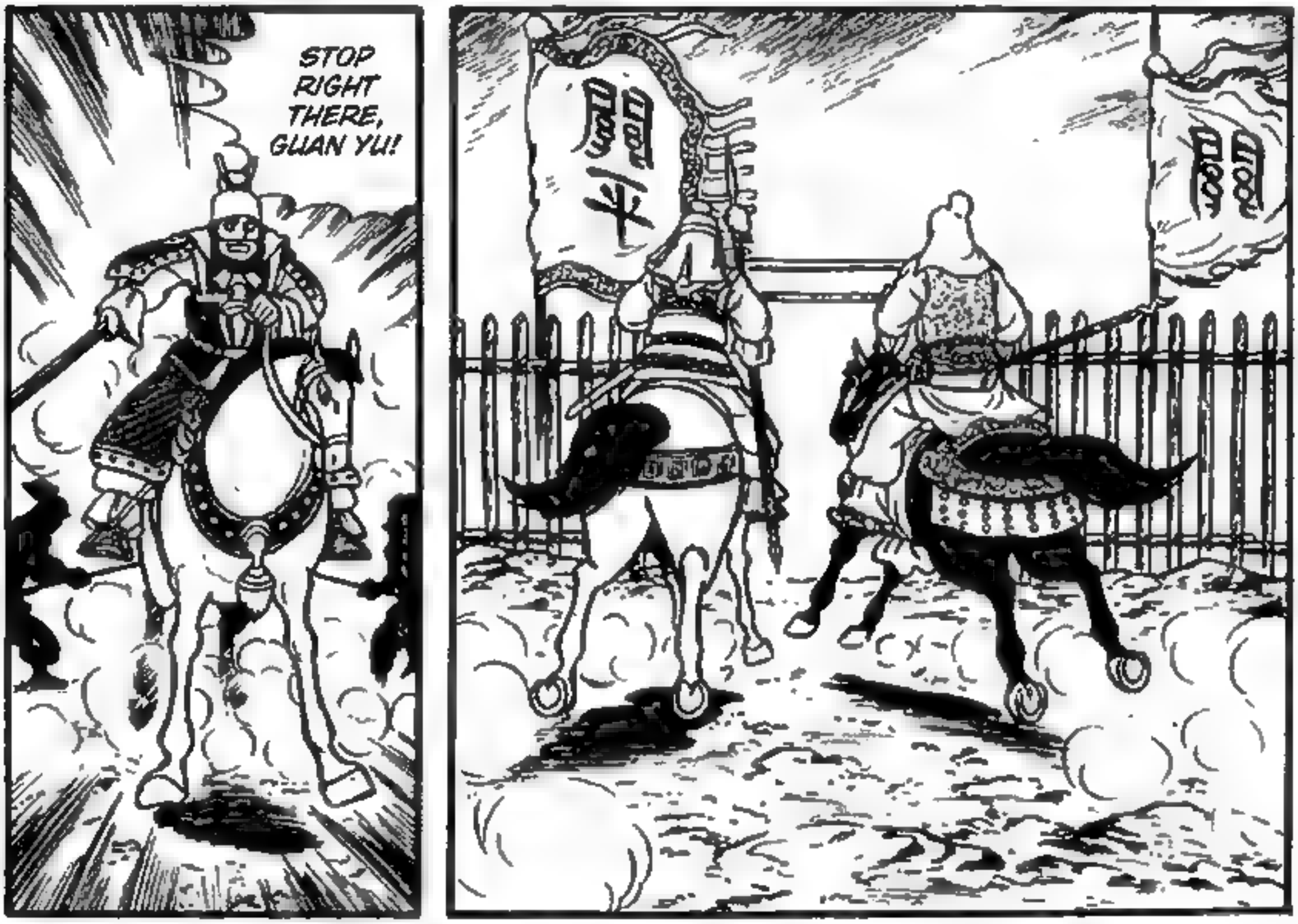
ﾌﾞﾝ
ﾌﾞﾝ

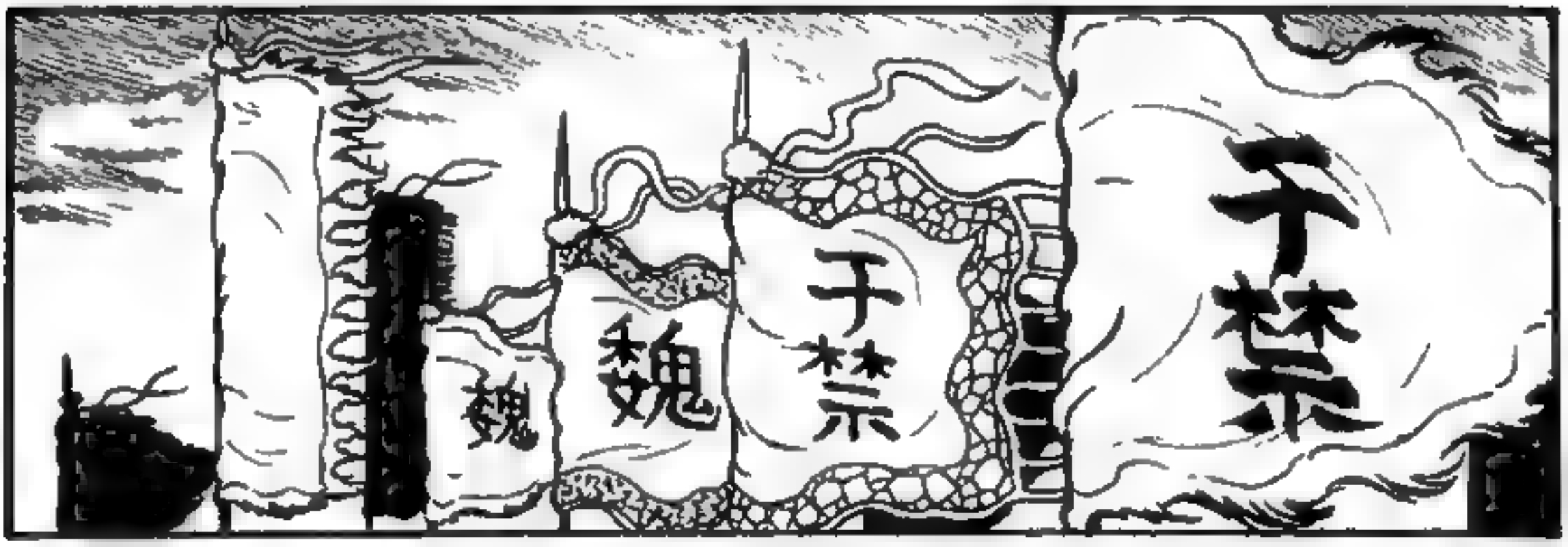
COME ON, MEN!

AHH! OUR COMMANDER IS IN DANGER!


DAMN IT! CLEAR THE WAY, YOU NAMELESS TRASH!

MNN...
FATHER, YOU MUST WITHDRAW FOR THE TIME BEING!


STOP RIGHT THERE, GUAN YU!


于禁
于禁
魏
魏

HE WOUNDED GUAN YU!?

IT SEEMS PANG DE HAS SHOT AN ARROW RIGHT INTO GUAN YU'S ARM.
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE WITH THE VANGUARD?

COMMANDER, IF PANG DE ACTUALLY GOES ON TO DEFEAT GUAN YU, HE'LL REAP ALL THE REWARDS,

HMM... HIS HIGHNESS DID INSTRUCT US TO KEEP PANG DE AWAY FROM UNNECESSARY RISK...

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS YOU WHO LED 7 DIVISIONS TO RELIEVE FANCHENG.

TELL THE VANGUARD TO WITHDRAW!

YES, SIR!

SOUND THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW!

I WAS RIGHT ON THE DOORSTEPS TO VICTORY TOO...!

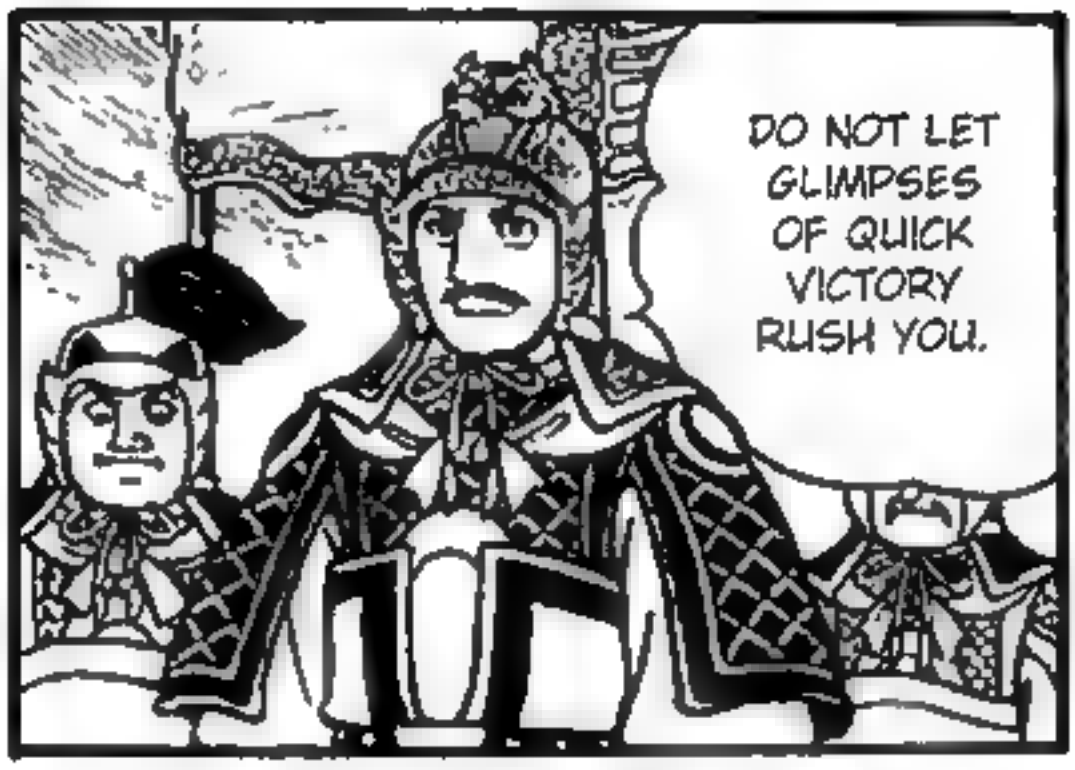
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

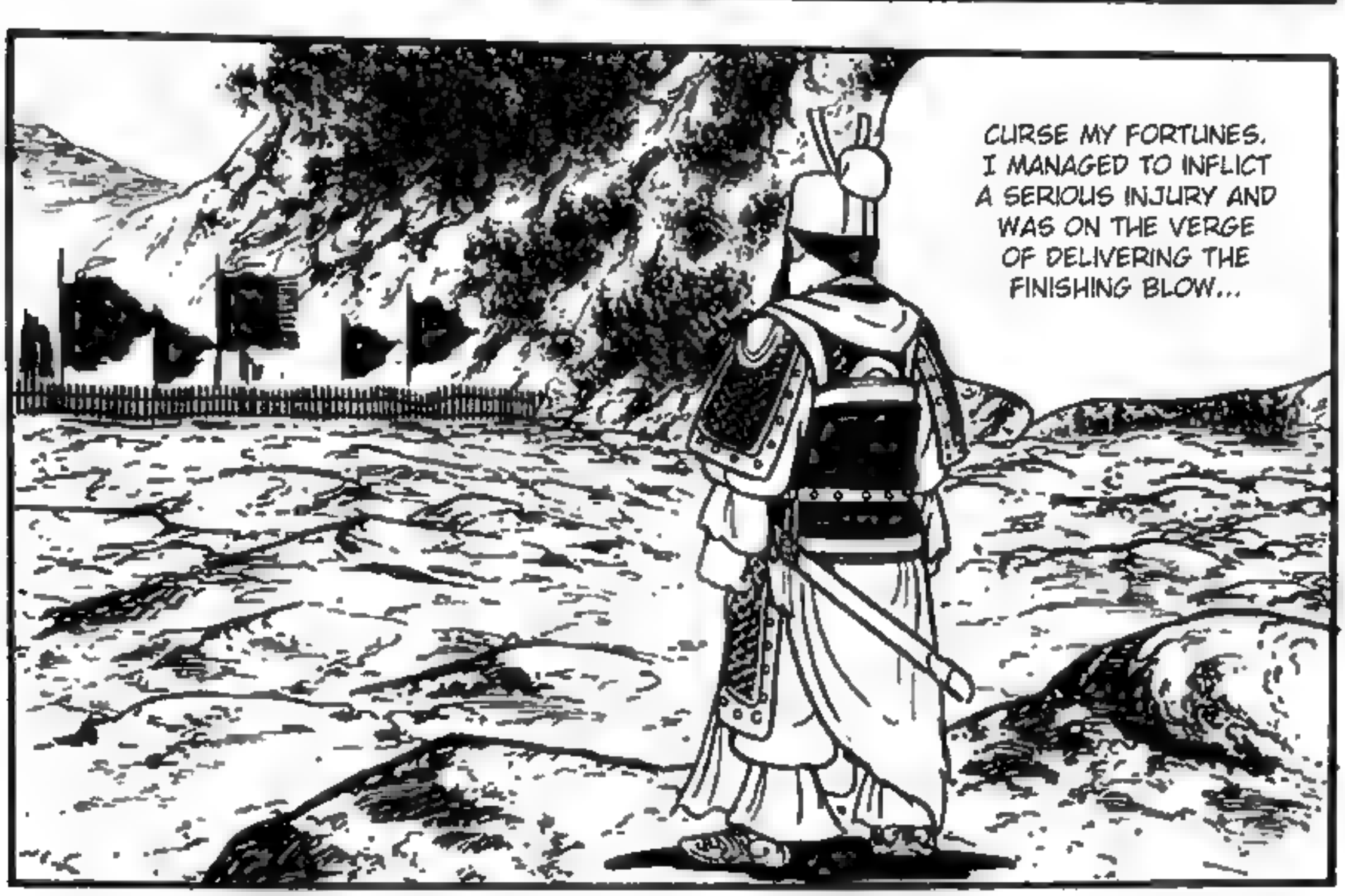
HM!?

WITHDRAW BACK TO CAMP!

IS THERE A THREAT TO OUR REAR, COMMANDER!?

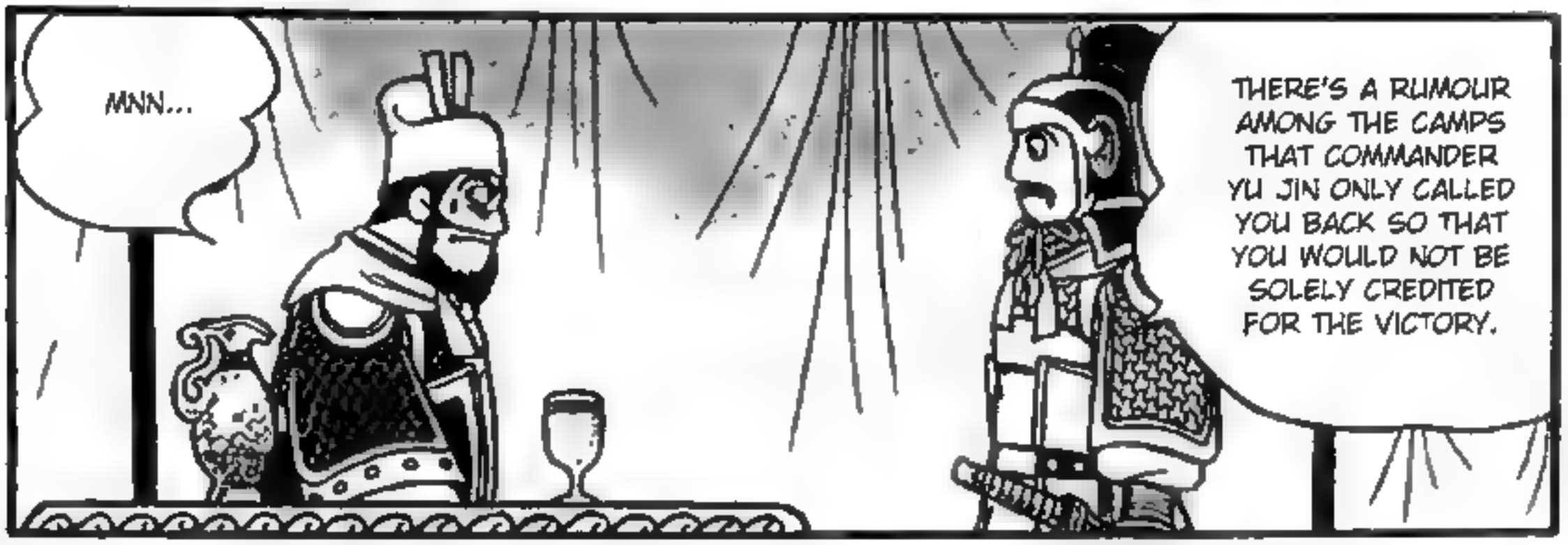
NO, BUT IT IS NOT WISE TO PURSUE GUAN YU TOO DEEP. YOU NEVER KNOW IF HE MIGHT HAVE AMBUSHES OR SOME OTHER TRAP TO ENSNARE US. AS OUR HIGHNESS HAS CAUTIONED SEVERAL TIMES, WE MUST NEVER LET DOWN OUR GUARDS.


DO NOT LET GLIMPSES OF QUICK VICTORY RUSH YOU.


CURSE MY FORTUNES. I MANAGED TO INFLICT A SERIOUS INJURY AND WAS ON THE VERGE OF DELIVERING THE FINISHING BLOW...

魏
魏

JUST A MOMENT LONGER AND YOU COULD HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH GUAN YU AND FINISHED HIM OFF... I FULLY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR ANNOYANCE, SIR.


MNN...
THERE'S A RUMOUR AMONG THE CAMPS THAT COMMANDER YU JIN ONLY CALLED YOU BACK SO THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE SOLELY CREDITED FOR THE VICTORY.

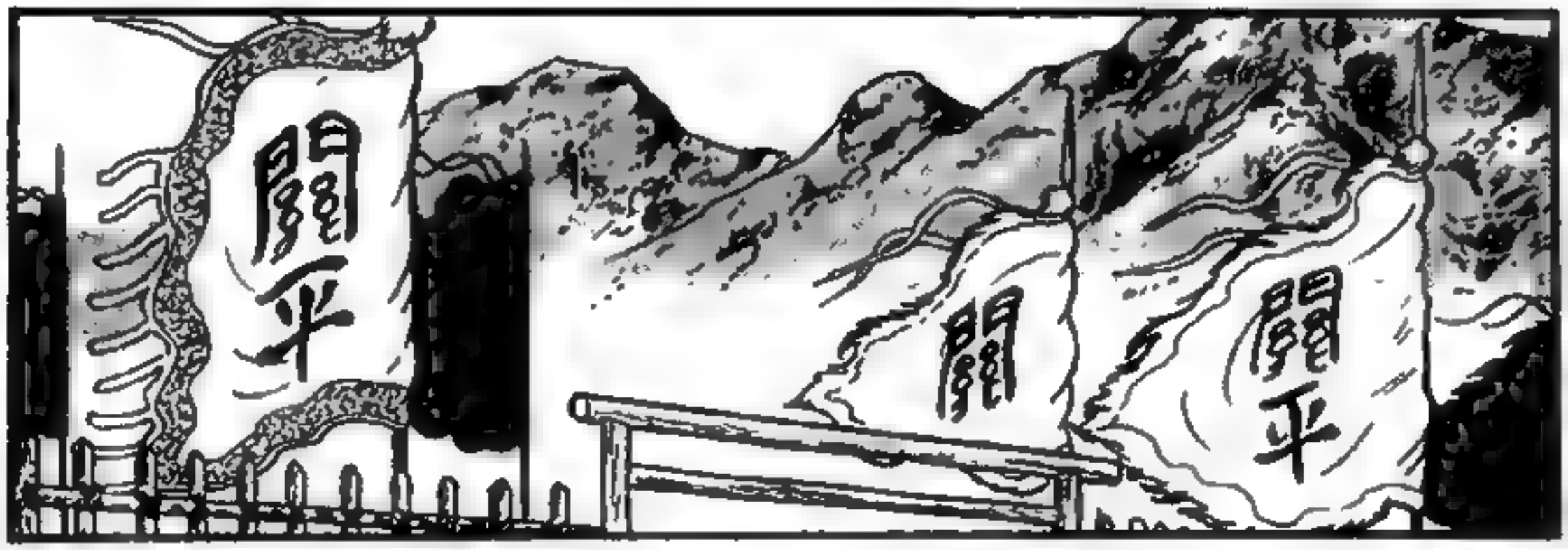
AHH, SHALL WE TRY PROVOKING HIM TOMORROW THEN?

WELL, I STILL HAVE A CHANCE. NOW THAT I INJURED GUAN YU, I KNOW I CAN KILL HIM IF HE COMES OUT FOR BATTLE.

YES, SIR.
LET'S WALK RIGHT UP TO HIS CAMPS TOMORROW.

GREAT IDEA!

FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, PANG DE APPROACHED GUAN YU'S CAMPS AND CHALLENGED HIM.


關平
關
關平

EVEN SO, I CANNOT TAKE HIS CONSTANT PROVOCA-TIONS!

PLEASE CALM DOWN, FATHER.

YES, BUT WITH OUR DEFENSES AND NUMBER, THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO.
HE'S HERE AGAIN!?

RIGHT...
YOU ARE NO STRANGER TO THE GUILES AND TRICKS OF WAR. DO NOT LET YOUR MOMEN-TARY ANGER CLOUD YOUR EXPERIENCE AND JUDGMENT.

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT NOW IS FOR YOUR ARM TO RECOVER. PANG DE IS MERELY TRYING TO INTERFERE IN YOUR RECOVERY BY GETTING UNDER YOUR SKIN.

FINE, I SHALL ASK YU JIN TO BORROW ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO FORCE A FRONTAL ATTACK.

NO AMOUNT OF JEERS AND SHOUTS IS WORKING...

于禁
魏
于禁
于禁
IF THEY HEAR REINFORCEMENTS HAVE COME, THEY WILL SURELY COME OUT AND HELP ATTACK THE ENEMY.
YOU WANT MY CENTER TO WORK WITH YOUR VANGUARD TO BREAK PAST GUAN YU'S LINES AND GET IN TOUCH WITH FANCHENG'S GARRISON?
PERMISSION DENIED. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT A GENERAL OF GUAN YU'S CALIBRE WOULD KEEP HIS DEFENSES WEAK ENOUGH FOR A SUCCESSFUL PENETRATION FROM THE FRONT.
HMM, IF THIS PLAN WORKS, THEN PANG DE WILL NO DOUBT RECEIVE ALL CREDITS FOR VICTORY...

YES, SIR.

I BELIEVE YOU ARE PUTTING TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR OWN VALOUR. KEEP IN MIND THAT WAR IS WON BY THE COORDINATED ACTIONS OF TROOPS, NOT THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

PANG DE IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE IMPATIENT FOR HIS MOMENT OF GLORY. I BETTER CHANGE THE ARMY FORMATION.

YES, SIR.

CALL PANG DE AND THE OTHER THE DIVISION LEADERS FOR A MEETING.

YES, PANG DE.

YOU WANT ME TO RELOCATE MY FORCES TO BEHIND THE HILLS...!?

I WILL LEAD THE CENTER TO CUT OFF THE MAIN ROAD AND FACE THE ENEMY CENTER. ME ANWHILE, EACH OF THE 7 DIVISIONS ARE TO SET UP CAMP 10 LI NORTH FROM FANCHENG.

BUT HOW CAN I THEN QUICKLY AID THE CENTER IF IT'S ATTACKED?

YOUR FORCES WILL TAKE POSITION BEHIND THE HILLS.

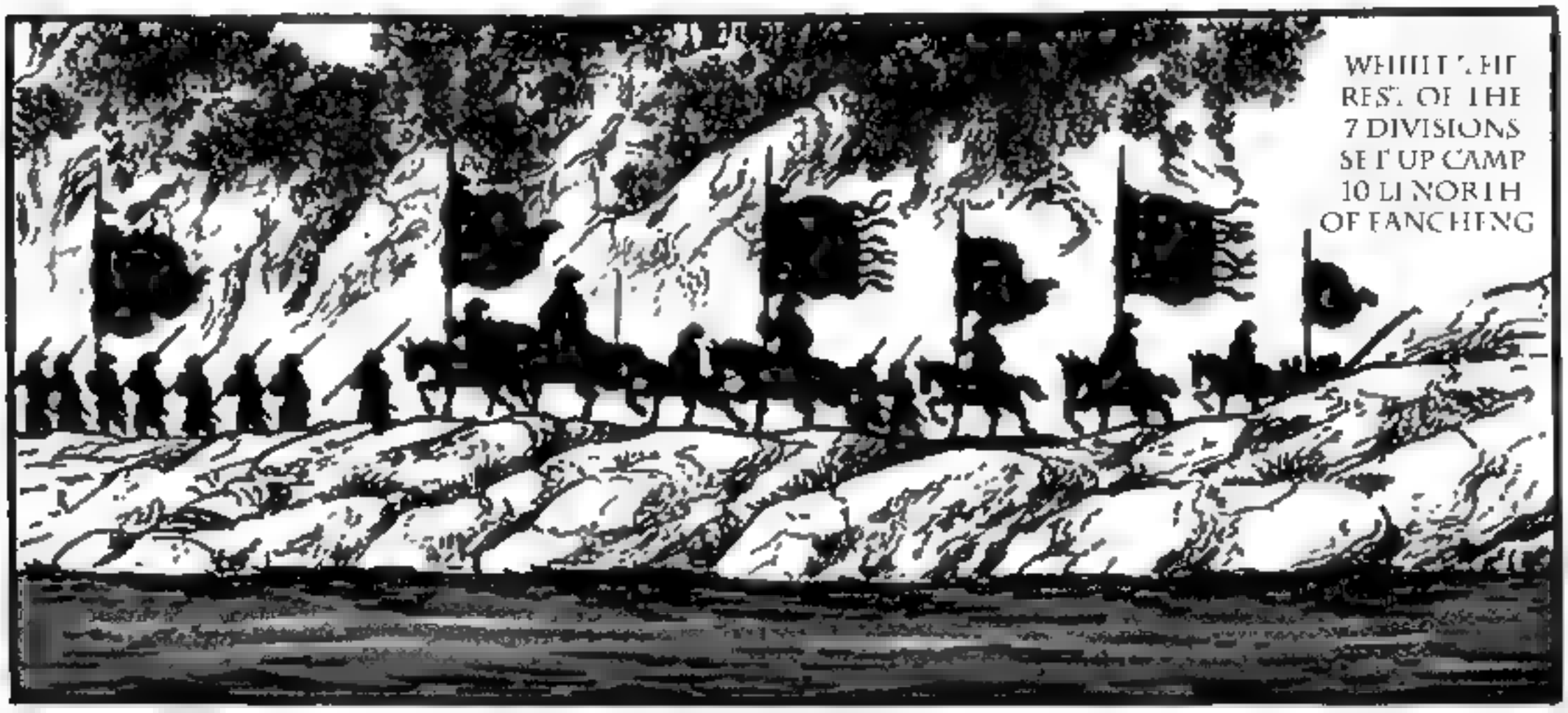
THE KING OF WEI HAS ENTRUSTED ME TO COMMAND HIS 7 DIVISIONS, NOT YOU!

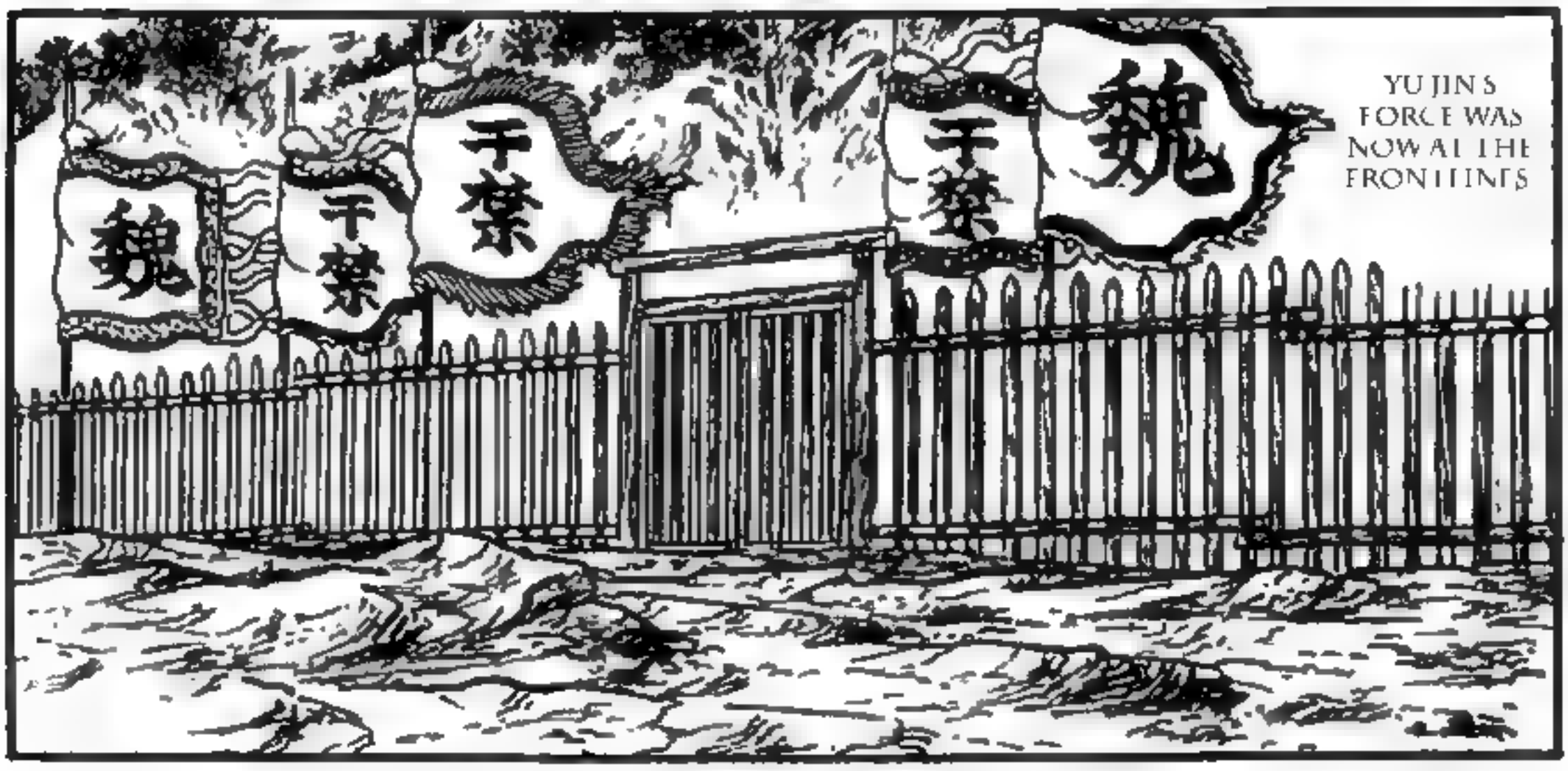
SILENCE!

YES, SIR...

I WILL HEAR NO MORE BACKTALK SO ALL OF YOU MOVE TO YOUR NEW POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY.

THUS, PANG DE MOVED BEHIND THE HILLS OF FANCHENG.
龐


WHILST THE REST OF THE 7 DIVISIONS SET UP CAMP 10 LI NORTH OF FANCHENG


YU JIN'S FORCE WAS NOW AT THE FRONTLINES
魏
于禁
于禁
于禁

MEANWHILE, THE WILL TO RESIST STEADILY ERODED IN FANCHENG AS ITS LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAD BEEN SEVERED COMPLETELY

YES?

REPORTING, COMMANDER.

WHAT!?

THE WEI ARMY HAS SET ITSELF UP AT NEW POSITIONS.

AND WHAT ABOUT PANG DE?

THE WEI CENTER IS NOW AT THE FRONT FACING US, WHILE ITS 7 DIVISIONS HAVE SET UP CAMP 10 LI NORTH OF FANCHENG.

WHERE!?

HIS FORCES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE VERY REAR BEHIND THE HILLS.

IT IS RIGHT BY ZENGKOU STREAM, SIR.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE PLACE THE 7 DIVISIONS ARE NOW AT?

*ZENGKOU: LITERALLY MEANS "OPEN NET"

HMM...

YES, THE XIANG RIVER. DURING THE RAINY SEASON, THE WATER RUNS DOWN THE VALLEY AND INTO THE RIVER, MAKING IT OVERFLOW PERIODICALLY.

OH? IS THERE A RIVER NEARBY?

HOW'S THE TERRAIN?

IS THAT SO?

THE VALLEY IS DEEP AND ITS SURROUNDING HILLS ARE QUITE STEEP AND DIFFICULT TO CROSS ON FOOT OR HORSE. ITS DEFENSIVE TERRAIN IS WHY FANCHENG HAS OFTEN BEEN CALLED IMPREGNABLE.

AHAHAHAHA!

HA HA HA HA

PARDON?

?

WE'VE JUST WON, GUAN PING.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

eBOOKで
快適読書生活

http://www.ebookjapan.jp

電子書籍版

三国志

40

横山 光輝

© 光プロダクション／潮出版社

Original 潮出版社 希望コミックス

Digital Distributor
eBOOK Initiative Japan Co.,Ltd.
〒101-0062　東京都千代田区神田駿河台 2-9-18
http://www.ebookjapan.jp